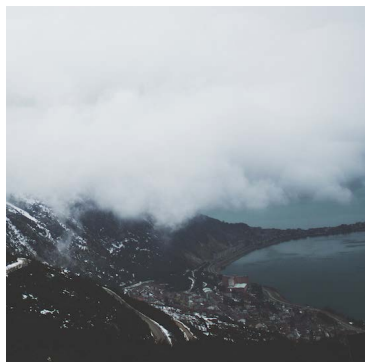


FACQ



FAMILY ACTION CENTRE MID-WINTER UPDATE



Before I take annual leave (7-21 August) I wanted to provide an update on some of the main activities and exciting developments at the Centre. We have an amazing group of people working at FAC, and a great work culture where everybody is conscientiously working toward achieving our goals with great focus. Thank you to everybody.



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

So here's an update on some of the main activities in no special order of priority:

BUILDING BRIDGES

At the All Staff Meeting in late March, we agreed to find some new ways to better integrate our three main functions (teaching, outreach and research). To this end, and in response to a NSW Government request for proposals, Jen submitted an application to develop an Associate Degree. It's a work in progress, but in 2019 we will probably have a sub-bachelor qualification on offer. It'll be something that bridges the education gap between Certificates & Diplomas (vocational education) and Degrees (university).

We've also opened up the **Family Studies Workshops** to staff and to local industry (not just Master students), with a very pleasing response.

SNUG RETREATS

The Special Needs camps (SNUG) will be continuing for another two years. A new Agreement was recently signed with the Steve Waugh Foundation, and Liz and Mary are busy inducting new volunteers, delivering training for casual staff and will be hosting three retreats later this year (two are fully booked, one has 12 families attending)!



NEW STAFF

Work in Muswellbrook is progressing at a pace. We have some new staff based in the new UON premises. They are Taytae, Nicole & Sandra (see their selfies attached). We are planning a launch - so stay tuned for invitations and a trip to the Upper Hunter on Monday 30 October.



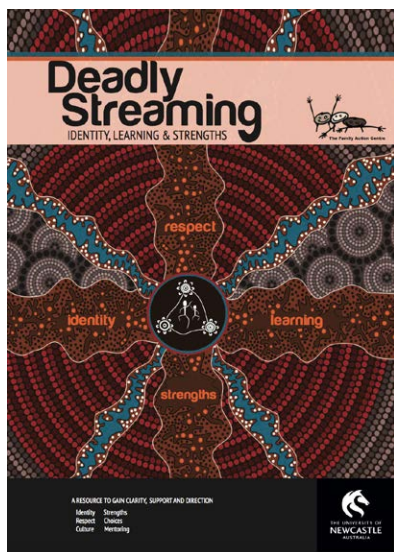
UNIFAM EVALUATION

Graeme will soon begin work on an Evaluation of the Uniting: Unifam Family Counselling and Mediation Services. These family services are funded by the Australian Government, to support children, young people, adults and families build healthy relationship habits, manage conflict and share positive communication.



SMS RESEARCH FUNDING

Chris and Richard have secured more funding for their SMS research. One project will be with a Community Outreach Perinatal Support Service. The SMS4Parents program will deliver SMS messages to new and expecting parents experiencing or at risk of perinatal depression. The other SMS4Dads project is with Mission Australia Communities for Children (Inala to Ipswich), funded by the Australian Government.



DEADLY STREAMING

The Deadly Streaming (DS) Project has a stunning new workbook that all students complete over two school terms. Schools visited weekly are now: Mount View High, Tanilba Bay Public, Telarah Public, Maryland Public, Irrawang Primary and High, and Muswellbrook South Primary and Muswellbrook High. Students from Years 4 to 8 attend an hour workshop with Craig, looking at identity, respect, culture and family. There was outstanding feedback from all schools in Terms 1 and 2.

ARC FUNDING APPLICATION

Jane and I have been working really hard on an ARC funding application for a Linkage project with Griffith Uni. It's about Collective Impact and how cross sector collaborations are the way of the future in creating demonstrable social change.

UNI4YOU

We have two new staff in the Uni4You team so the suite of pre-enabling and

supportive activities can now be offered in additional geographical areas (Muswellbrook and Eastlake) and the Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Detention Centre. We have high numbers attending the introductory sessions and new participants successfully applying for Enabling Programs in 2018.

2018 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Deb is managing our 2018 International Symposium. It'll be an International Symposium on Family and Community Strengths (ISFCS) from Monday 30 April - Wed 2 May 2018. The ISFCS team have been devising the program and the main theme will be: Local and global solutions for integrating evidence, policy and practice. Please save the dates!



BROWN BAG LUNCHESES

Next one 30 August

We will be continuing with the brown bag lunches this year. The last one on The Toumbourou Report was well attended. These lunchtime gatherings are a great way to build cross-over between all our work areas. The next one will be on Google Earth (come and see how public data can be overlaid onto maps of Raymond Terrace and Cessnock).

OUR HEALTH RULES!

The Smith Family, has recently signed an Agreement for two more years funding for the Our Health Rules Project (OHR). Among other activities, Anne and Margie, with the assistance of a final year Occupational Therapy student, are working to provide play based activities that stimulate learning with young children (approximately 50% have ASD or additional learning needs).

HUNTER OUTREACH PROJECT

Our work within the Hunter Outreach Project (HOP) is in supporting families, but there are now three 'priority groups': Aboriginal Families, Families with children 0-3 and Younger Parents (<20 yrs old). The team have recently met with maternal health services to determine the direction that the HOP project may take in the future. All team members are now known as Parenting Practitioners as their work is focused on enhancing parenting.

FAMILY STUDIES

The Family Studies course enrolments are growing very well. This year, our Family Studies postgraduate courses are running in trimester format for the first time. So far, we've run 9 courses with 4 more to run in Trimester 3. Other courses have been 'globalised', so our students are mixing with students from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA and Tata Institute in Mumbai, India.

Many of us are working really hard on trying to grow this load because more enrolments will secure the future for the new discipline. So please keep telling your friends and spruiking for Family Studies wherever you go! Ideas for marketing are always welcome.

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Students on Placement are: Shae, a final year Community Services Diploma (Case Work) student who is on placement with HOP. Esther, a final year B. Occupational Therapy student who is working on OHR. Hannah, a final year Social Work student who is undertaking a short evaluative research project on SNUG.



INDONESIA

Deb and I will go to Indonesia in September to further develop the relationship with 4 Universities and to try and embed Family Studies in that country.

STUDY LEAVE

Richard will soon be away for 7 weeks on study leave (Sept 4 to Oct 20) in Portugal & Spain - except for 27th to 30th September where he will attend a work conference in London. Andrew

will also be away for 6 weeks while prac. teaching Year 4 students in Maitland (9 Oct to 20 Nov).

NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

The new undergraduate course HLSC1243 'Foundations of Strong Families, Capable Communities' is now a directed elective in the Bachelor of Social Science. This course is the first in a sequence of 3 courses in the Community and Human Services major, and we have had great enrolment numbers for a first time course. We let commencing students know the range and scope of professions and careers they might pursue in family and community work. We also teach students about collaborating with other professions and services in the community for greater collective impact. We're very fortunate to be a multi-functional centre with great practice expertise to draw upon when developing teaching programs. Here's some great examples of teaching resources we've developed for this course, with our very own video stars!



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