WA Country Health Service
Government of Western Australia

WACHS/ DSC Therapy Assistant Training Initiative

Summary of Expression of Interest

The expression of interest form was sent to all managers of allied health throughout WACHS so that they could pass it on to allied health staff to complete. It was also placed in the Country Health Update to ensure as many people accessed it as possible.

12 sites returned the expression of interest form. These sites were: Geraldton/Midwest, Gascoyne Population Health, Esperance Physio, Esperance OT/SP, Northam, Kalgoorlie, Great Southern Population Health, Central Great Southern, Collie, Merredin, Narrogin and Kununurra/ Wyndham. No response was received from: Port Hedland, Karratha, Broome, Derby.

The results were collated and are shown below. Those in YELLOW showed the largest number of responses for a particular section.

Regional Support

Is your site supportive of this initiative?	YES 12	UNSURE	NO
Do you think this initiative would benefit your region?	YES 12	UNSURE	NO
Do you use TA's to carry out programs?	YES 10	UNSURE	NO 1
Are you involved in training TA's?	YES 10	UNSURE	NO

Training Content Areas

Please indicate the priority from 1-3 (1 = high priority) the areas that would be beneficial to be covered in the training series:

	1 High	2	3 Low
Generic training for TA's in specified competencies (e.g. communication, behaviour management, time management)	3	7	2
Clinical training for agreed competencies (e.g. in fine motor skills, articulation, sensory processing)	6	4	2
Training for Therapists (e.g. supervision, delegation, adult learning styles)	2	1	9

Training for Therapy Assistants

Current Clinical Training Method - Please tick all the descriptions that describe the way that TA's are training in your area

Training is on the job	12	Training is based on competencies and has assessment	2
TAFE qualification required for employment		Therapists run all training	10
Group training days	6	TA's do training with other organizations	4
Training occurs as needed	11	Training is informal	11

It is envisaged that an amalgamation of existing packages & resources would be used to run the training series. What are the tools/ package/ information that you are currently using to train TA's?

- own handouts and info (Katanning, Esperance- Physio department, Northam, Kalgoorlie, Narrogin)
- nil (Albany)
- Speech have their own package but keen to have outside input (Esperance)
- Midwest package (Kununurra/ Wyndham, Northam, Midwest & Geraldton, Merredin, Narrogin)

Training topics in a **clinical training** series

Please tick whether this training currently occurs in your region (**current).** In the **desired** column, please select the 6 most desired training topics that you would like to be in the videoconference.

Topic	Current	Desired	Topic	Current	Desired
Pre-literacy skills	3	2	Comprehension	3	3
Sensory processing	3	3	Fine motor skills	3	10
Visual perception	4	3	Narrative	3	3
Handwriting	3	1	Gross Motor Skills	4	6
Early Intervention	3	7	Play Skills	4	7
Equipment	3	1	AAC	2	1
Disability	4	7	Articulation/ Phonology	5	7
Adult rehabilitation	3	8			

Please list other topics you would to be included: Cultural awareness (working with people from other cultures)

Training topics in a **generic TA Training** series

Please tick whether this training currently occurs in your region (**current).** In the **desired** column, please select the 6 most desired training topics that you would like to be in the videoconference.

Topic	Current	Desired	Topic	Current	Desired
Communication	4	6	Service delivery model	2	4
Maximising Learning	2	4	Prompting, Cuing & Modelling	3	8
Time management	4	9	Reinforcement/ Feedback	4	8
Behaviour management	3	11	Increase/ decrease steps	3	6
Self evaluation/ reflection	1	3	Teamwork	3	2

Please list other topics you would like to be included:

How should the training series for TA's be run?

An intensive block run 3 times per year 5 Monthly throughout the year 5
Other:

Training for Allied Health Professionals working with TA's

Training topics in a **therapist** training series

Please tick whether this training currently occurs in your region (**current)** and whether you would like to see it as part of a videoconference series **(desired).**

Topic	Current	Desired	Topic	Current	Desired
Supervision	2	11	Measuring outcomes	1	11
Adult learning principles	1	9	Delivering TA training	1	12
Multi-disciplinary TA programs	2	10			

Please list other topics you would like to be included: Minimum supervision standards; performance management of TA's

How should the training series for allied health professionals be run?

An intensive block run 2 times per year 9 Monthly throughout the year 1
Other:

SUMMARY

All sites supported the initiative and felt it would benefit their region. Sites felt that clinical training for TA's was the highest priority for this training series, followed by generic training for TA's and training for therapists.

Currently most training was described as: on the job, occurring as needed and informal and most was run by therapists. Methods of training included: using their own package; using the Midwest Health Service package (with their own additions) and no tools or packages.

The top 6 topics for clinical training were fine motor skills, early intervention, disability, play skills, adult rehabilitation, and articulation/phonology.

The top 5 topics in a generic training series were: behaviour management, time management, prompting/cuing/ modelling, reinforcement/Feedback & communication. The only other suggested topic was for cultural awareness training.

For the TA training, 5 sites suggested an intensive block of training and 5 preferred monthly throughout the year. For therapist training 9 sites suggested an intensive block (twice a year) and 1 site suggested monthly.

Sites thought all topics suggested for therapists training were desirable and 2 other suggestions were added: minimum supervision standards & performance management of TA's.

RESPONSES FROM:

Person Completing Form: Luke Wilkinson	Site: Carnarvon
On Behalf of: Gascoyne Population Health	Region: Gascoyne Pilbara
Working group contact	Luke Wilkinson/ Nigel Holmes

Person Completing Form: Kristen Campbell	Site: Kununurra/Wyndham HS
On Behalf of: David Managhan (District Mx)	Region: Kimberley
Working group contact:	Kristen Campbell (not available for working group but keen to keep informed)

Person Completing Form: Janelle Potter	Site: Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital
On Behalf of: Erin Bond (Allied Health Coordinator)	Region: Goldfields South East Health Region
Working group contact:	Erin Bond

Person Completing Form: Helen Carter	Site: Albany
On Behalf of: Great Southern Population Health Services	Region: Great Southern Health Region
Working group contact	Helen Carter

Person Completing Form: Lauren Shelley	Site: Esperance District Hospital
On Behalf of: Physiotherapy Department	Region: GSEHR
Working group contact	Howard Reddyhough

Person Completing Form: Howard Reddyhough	Site: Esperance- SE District

On Behalf of: OT/SP
Working group contact

Region: Goldfields SE HR
Howard Reddyhough

Person Completing Form: Emma Birch
On Behalf of: Northam Clinicans
Working group contact

Site: Northam
Region: Wheatbelt Health
Emma Birch

Person Completing Form: Belinda Goodale
On Behalf of: Midwest & Geraldton
Working group contact

Site: Geraldton/ Midwest
Region: MMHR
Belinda Goodale

Person Completing Form: Jo Webb
On Behalf of: Great Southern Population Health
Working group contact

Site: Katanning
Region: GS
Jo Webb

Person Completing Form: Alison Smith
On Behalf of: Collie Hospital
Working group contact

Site: Collie
Region: SW Area HS
Alison Smith

Person Completing Form: Simone Benson
On Behalf of: UGSPHS Child Development Team
Working group contact:

Site: Upper Great Southern Primary Health Service
Region: WHR
Rachael Bowles

Person Completing Form: Monica Mais
On Behalf of:
Working group contact

Site: Merredin
Region: WHR
Monica Mais