

The Westmead Feelings Program 1 is Launched at APAC 17



The Bandaged Bear celebrating the launch of Westmead Feelings Program 1 at APAC 17.

The Westmead Feelings Program 1 has been launched, making this evidence-based program for children with Autism available to every child with Autism worldwide. Westmead Feelings Program 1: emotion-based learning for children with autism spectrum disorder and mild intellectual disability (WFP 1) was launched at the Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2017 (apac 17) held in September in Sydney. WFP 1 is a therapy program delivered by educators and allied health professionals that promotes emotions competence skills for children with autism and develops parent and teacher emotion coaching skills. WFP 1 was formerly known as Emotion-based Social Skills Training for Children with Autism (EBSST). Based on ten years of research and development, WFP is an evidence-based program that has been shown to improve children's emotions competence in treatment versus control trials of over 330 children on the autism spectrum, with and without intellectual disability (Ratcliffe, Wong, Dossetor & Hayes, 2014; Ratcliffe, Wong, Dossetor & Hayes, under review).

The publication of WFP 1 is in partnership between The Australian Council for Educational Research and the Children's Hospital at Westmead. Accompanying WFP 1 kits and manuals is WFP 1 Online Professional

Learning which develops skills, knowledge and competence in how to deliver WFP 1 and a pathway to becoming an accredited WFP 1 Facilitator. WFP 1 face-to-face Facilitator workshops are also available through the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

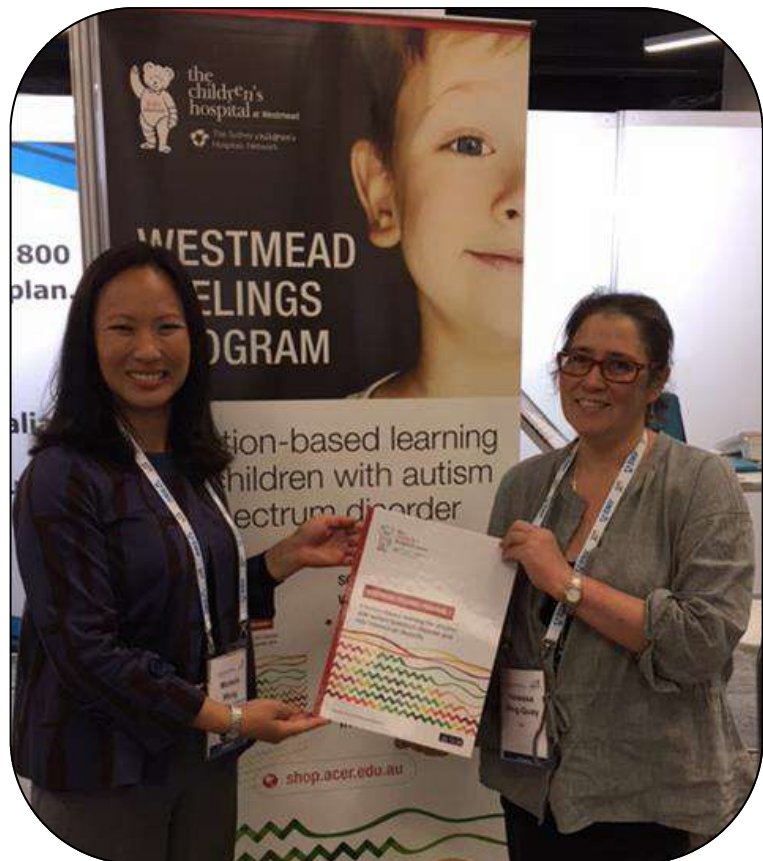
More information about WFP 1 can be found here: <https://www.acer.org/westmead-feelings-program>

Westmead Feelings Program 2: Emotion-based learning for children with autism without intellectual disability will be launched in September 2018.

References

Ratcliffe, B., Wong, M.G., Dossetor, D. & Hayes, S. (under review). Emotion-based social skills training for children with autism spectrum disorder and mild intellectual disability: a treatment versus control trial in Australian schools.

Ratcliffe, B., Wong, M.G., Dossetor, D. & Hayes, S. (2014). Teaching social-emotional skills to school-aged children with autism spectrum disorder: a treatment versus control trial in 41 mainstream schools. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 8(12), 1722-1733.



Vanessa the Psychologist from Bendigo, Victoria is the first to take the Westmead Feelings Program 1 to her clinic.