December 2019



Early Years Behaviour Support Program (EYBSP)

Using tele-classroom consulting (TCC) practices to meet the needs of students on the autism spectrum in the early years (5–8 years)





Aim

To trial a Tele-Classroom Consultation (TCC) approach to support the professional learning of educators in rural and remote regions to meet the more complex and individualised needs of learners on the autism spectrum in inclusive classrooms.



What is TCC?







The TCC approach involves a combination of face-to-face visits and more remote support through phone conversations, emails and video conferencing to facilitate collaboration between classroom teachers and outside specialists.



Who took part?







Teachers

Specialist support staff

Across 5 rural and remote schools



What did we find?



Face-to-face is an essential element of a TCC approach



Adequate time is needed at the start of the TCC approach to identify and gather accurate information and all stakeholders' needs



Whole school professional learning opportunities are needed, as well as whole class and individualised strategies



More face-to-face may be necessary depending on the needs of the context and learner



Ongoing communication through more remote support is critical



Regularity of approach and the mode of delivery needs to be negotiated

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What did we find?



TCC is a big and ongoing sustained commitment both on time and resources



Staff see the value of time commitment when they see how practices can be applied to other learners



It's beneficial if TCC professional learning is recognised as professional development hours



Virtual collaborative software needs to be simple, accessible and require minimal bandwidth and training to be used



Remote support needs to include a range of different delivery options



School's internet capacity and the IT knowledge of participants needs consideration



Dual case management – delegated case managers needed for TCC team and the educational site



Who did the research?









Acknowledgments

Special thanks go to all of the participants including school communities.

Find out more

Download the full report and executive summary on the Autism CRC website: autismcrc.com.au/reports/EYBSP