Exploring Technology Innovations in Child Mental Health and Wellbeing Research

11th December 2013

Researchers in Child Mental Health and Wellbeing explored possible ways technology can support their research at a one-day colloquium entitled *Looking Ahead: Technology Innovations in Child Wellbeing Research*. The colloquium was hosted by the Collaborative Research Network (CRN) sub-project “Promotion of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Young People” at Edith Cowan University and was facilitated by CRN Collaborator, Associate Professor Michael Rosenberg from The University of Western Australia. This sub-project aims to enhance the quality of Australian research to reduce the mental health harms caused by bullying and other forms of social aggression among young people.

Nineteen ECU researchers and 21 researchers from seven other Australian and international tertiary institutions participated in the event, making the most of this opportunity to share ideas, insights and experiences with other researchers and to identify research synergies and opportunities for collaboration.

Associate Professor Rosenberg drew together an enthusiastic group of presenters, including: Devendra Maurya; Dr Shirlee-ann Knight; and A/Prof Karen Murcia from ECU who spoke about micro sensors, ICT app design for health and transformational games respectively. Alex Shaykevich from UWA, and Dr Ben Richardson, Deakin University, spoke on Smart phone app development and Professor Ross Young from Queensland University of Technology spoke about experiences using apps to address youth health issues.

The aim of the colloquium was to encourage sharing of ideas and potential collaborative partnerships. “We wanted this colloquium to provide a springboard, linking researchers with each other and with technologies”, said Professor Donna Cross. “The next phase is sustaining those links”. Planning is now underway for further meetings of this group of researchers around technology issues.

This event was supported by ECU’s Collaborative Research Network with funding from the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. For further information on this event or the CRN sub-project “Promotion of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Young People”, please contact Alana Papageorgiou at mailto:a.papageorgiou@ecu.edu.au