



In this edition:

1. **Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare.**
2. **NSW Health research grant.** (In conjunction with Helplines Australia)
3. **ACT Health - Policy for Telepsychology.**
4. **US telehealth Store.** (Products for telemedicine)
5. **theMHS (Mental Health Services) Conference.** "Reachout- Connect"
6. **Committee members** - Expressions of interest.

Welcome to the Telephone and Internet Counselling and Psychology Interest group of the Australian Psychological Society.

You have received this e-mail as part of your membership regarding news and events in the Telehealth, Telepsychology, Helpline and Health Call centre industry.

1) Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare (JTT). An academic journal that is relevant to the work of telephone and internet counselling...

JTT has been defined in general terms to be 'medicine & therapy practiced at a distance' and as such it encompasses diagnosis and treatment, as well as education. During the last decade certain telemedicine applications, such as videoconsulting and teleradiology, have matured to become essential health-care services. Others, such as telepathology, remain the subject of intensive research effort. The *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare* is an academic journal that publishes peer-reviewed papers on all aspects of telemedicine and telecare, including online health and e-health. For more info: www.rsmppress.co.uk/jtt.htm

2) NSW Health research grant- Helplines Australia has secured a grant to identify aspects of telephone counselling and skills required to make the counselling effective via this medium.

The grant has been re-negotiated and will be due to commence in August 2006. We will require input from Psychologists and APS members and this will take place later in the year. We also anticipate that this research grant will form the platform for revising the Guide to best practice 3rd edition for helplines.

If you are interested in participating please me-mail tisca@helplines.org.au

3) ACT Health - Policy for Telepsychology. Some psychologists have also requested guidance about conducting psychological work over the telephone. There is very little formal documentation for Psychologists. ACT health has in 1998 developed a policy that may be of interest for members.

For more info: www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10033491&pid=1068503086

3) Us Telehealth Store – Some Psychologists have approached the interest group to seek information about equipment and hardware for setting up e-health or telehealth services. This 'store' provides this technology for major telehealth centres and hospitals.

For more info: www.healthcaretec.com/xcart/home.php

4) TheMHS conference. The Mental health Services conference is on again. The annual TheMHS conference for people associated with mental health issues and psychiatry.

TheMHS provides a forum for: the exchange of ideas; professional development; networking and debate, for mental health professionals, consumers, Carers (families), and managers. TheMHS aims to promote positive attitudes about mental health and mental illness, and to stimulate debate that will challenge the boundaries of present knowledge and ideas about mental health care.

www.themhs.org

5) Committee Members. We require Psychologists with an interest in Telephone, Internet and media to become involved in our committee.

Please contact the APS office Alex Bignell for further details.

We welcome any feedback regarding this UPDATE, which you can provide by replying to this e-mail.

Kind Regards
Bill Campos
Group Convener

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