

# NEWSLETTER



December 2018

Welcome to our December newsletter. In this issue we introduce you to the ASQ-TRAK TOY Kit, update you on ASQ-TRAK research and ASQ-TRAK training, and provide some tips on screening children from non-English speaking families.

## ASQ-TRAK TOY Kits

Having the right toys and materials is an important part of the ASQ-TRAK administration. We understand ASQ-TRAK users' frustration at not being able to source items for the TOY Kit, especially in remote settings. Following increasing enquiries and requests, we have produced an ASQ-TRAK TOY Kit. The TOY Kit contains 21 individual items that are wide and varied. We are very excited to offer you the chance to buy your own complete **ASQ-TRAK TOY Kit**.

The ASQ-TRAK has been adapted for use with our Aboriginal population; so with that in mind we have sourced culturally appropriate items for use with Australian Aboriginal kids and families. One of the ways we've done this was to find dolls and books that are more relevant to Aboriginal families (pictured right). All the items are collated into a large zipped trolley bag. Following feedback, we have allowed space in the trolley bag for both the TOY Kit and the ASQ-TRAK Kit, for easy storage and transportation, and for protection of the Kits.

You can order your own **ASQ-TRAK TOY Kit** by emailing us on [asq-trak@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:asq-trak@unimelb.edu.au) with the subject heading 'TOY KIT ORDER'.

The cost of the ASQ-TRAK TOY Kit is \$340 (plus GST and freight charges). We have tried to keep the cost as low as possible. Unfortunately, sourcing and collating the appropriate items for the TOY Kit has been labour intensive, requiring detailed research and consultation to ensure the items are fit for purpose.



## ASQ-TRAK Research Update

### The ASQ:Extended TRAK

This year we've been working on an exciting new project with the Northern Territory Department of Education. We are developing the **ASQ:Extended TRAK**, the first psychometric developmental outcome measure for Australian Aboriginal children. We have been talking to stakeholders in urban and remote communities in the Northern Territory and are working to expand our consultation into South Australia.

### Why is it important?

The ASQ-TRAK is a developmental screener, which means it tells us if a child is at risk of developmental difficulties if she or he scores below cut-off in any of the developmental domains.

The ASQ:Extended TRAK is a *developmental outcome measure*. This means we can use it to:

- assess individual children's developmental progress; and
- evaluate the impact of early childhood programs and interventions

These applications are beyond the functionality of the ASQ-TRAK.

### How are we doing this?

We are adapting the items from the other ASQ-3 questionnaires that weren't adapted in the original modification in 2012. To do this we are following the same process that we undertook in the original adaptation. We are also collaborating with the ASQ author group to develop the ASQ:Extended TRAK.

### When will it be completed?

We are working towards having a completed prototype in mid-2019.

### What else?

A bonus of this work is that all 21 ASQ-3 questionnaires will be adapted so the ASQ-TRAK will extend to include all ages from 2 months to 60 months.



Illustration: Emma Long

## Successfully screening children from non-English-speaking families

The ASQ-TRAK is one of the many adaptations of the ASQ-3™ used with non-English speaking families.

The ASQ-3™ has been translated into many other languages including Somali, Arabic, Vietnamese and Spanish.

In this issue we turn to a Q&A with ASQ® co-developer Kimberly Murphy to get some tips and insights into how we can optimise the developmental screening process in **bi-lingual or culturally diverse settings** ([www.agesandstages.com](http://www.agesandstages.com)).

In Part 1 Kimberly highlights the difference between adaptation and translation, the importance of using culturally appropriate screening tools and ways to optimise accuracy in scoring.

[Read Part 1 here](#)

In Part 2 of the Q&A she discusses the processes involved in adapting or translating the ASQ-3 and some useful tips for working with interpreters.

[Read Part 2 here](#)

## ASQ-TRAK training

A number of you have inquired about ASQ-TRAK training. We are working towards developing an ASQ-TRAK training model for organisations to promote sustainability and the fidelity of ASQ-TRAK implementation in Australia.

It is helpful for us to know the level of need for ASQ-TRAK training.

If your organisation is interested in receiving training in the ASQ-TRAK, please let us know via the website: <https://asq-trak.education.unimelb.edu.au/contact-us>.

This means we'll be able to get in touch once the training model is finalised.

Please include the information below:

- How many staff from your organisation might be interested in participating?
- What is the disciplinary background of the staff members (for example, child health nurse or Aboriginal Health Practitioner)?
- Is the ASQ-3™ in use in your region?

## User experience

We are continually looking to improve the design of the ASQ-TRAK Kit and want to hear from our users. We know that many of you frequently need to transport your ASQ-TRAK Kit to remote communities and that the Kit needs to withstand wear and tear associated with this. We are exploring new options for more durable packaging.

All feedback or suggestions are welcome! You can email us at [asq-trak@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:asq-trak@unimelb.edu.au). Please include 'ASQ-TRAK KIT FEEDBACK' in the subject line.

## ASQ Age Calculator



The ASQ Age Calculator is a handy tool available on the ASQ website and as an app for your phone. The calculator helps you work out which questionnaire to use when you're screening a child. It even adjusts for prematurity!

<http://agesandstages.com/free-resources/asq-calculator/>

## Did you know?

ASQ-TRAK users are spread across five of the Australian States and Territories and one user in France! Over 50 agencies, both health and education, are using the ASQ-TRAK in urban, regional and remote communities in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.

