2008 National EHDI Conference
February 25-26, 2008

REACHING FAMILIES IN RURAL AREAS

RIDBC Teleschool is partially funded by the Australian Government under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.

Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
MAP 1: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

Source ABS, Table 5.13 Distribution of Population Source: 2000 Year Book Australia, ABS Cat No. 1301.0;
Family response

“It probably means we, as parents, have to do a little bit more work than if we were in the room with the teacher, because then the teacher would do most of it and we’d sit back a bit. But this (VC) is good because it is pushing us forward and actually making us do it.”
Technology

- What equipment is used?
- How does it work?
- What about webcams?
Family response

“At first you feel a bit shy. You think, ‘am I reading this book correctly?’ or ‘here’s the toy. What do I do with it?’ But after a while you realise that’s what the teacher is there for - to show you what to do.”
In home VC
Family response

“Videoconferencing is so helpful because it teaches us strategies we can use with J. instead of just observing the professional doing activities with her.”
Teleschool

Thursday Island, QLD

RIDBC, NSW

Videoconferencing

Visits to RIDBC

Internet Based Communications

Telephone

Packages

RIDBC Teleschool
Family response

“Seeing you each week has been really good, because all I ever wanted was for someone to give me ideas for things to work on at home with my child.”
Telepractice Options

- Mentoring and support for local professionals
- Team meetings, including IFSP
- Assessments
- Sign language instruction
- Parent networking
- Parent attendance at Sydney-based courses

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Developments

- Establishment of a national program
- Shift in pedagogy
- Increase in number of in-home VC links
- Blended service delivery
- Creation of resource library
- Establishment of family networks
- Collaboration with other professionals
- Regularity and continuity of services
For further information please see our website www.ridbc.org.au

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