

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title:

Examining the feasibility and acceptability of Behavioural Activation for adolescents with mood difficulties in school settings.

Project Summary:

This PhD project will examine the feasibility of Behavioural Activation (BA) to support adolescents with mood difficulties in rural educational settings. Our team has conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis on the safety and efficacy of BA in schools and has an extensive program of research expertise in applying BA across clinical and community contexts. The project will involve co-designing a school-adapted BA intervention with students, educators, and families, followed by a feasibility randomised controlled trial to assess acceptability, implementation, and preliminary effectiveness. Findings will inform a future Australian government funded grant application to evaluate BA at scale across Australian schools. The successful candidate will contribute to impactful translational mental health research and develop advanced skills in intervention design, trial methodology, and implementation science.

Preferred Applicant Skillset:

We are looking for someone who ideally have a background in psychology, nursing, public health, education, social work, or a related health or behavioural science discipline. Applicants should demonstrate strong research skills, including experience in qualitative and/or quantitative methods, and an interest in youth mental health and school-based interventions. Experience with intervention development, clinical or educational practice, and stakeholder engagement is desirable. The candidate should have excellent written and verbal communication skills, the ability to work independently and as part of our team. An interest in translational research and implementation science would be an advantage. Prior experience with trials and Behavioural Activation is advantageous, but not essential.

Primary Contact:

Prof Martin Jones.

martin.jones@ecu.edu.au

+61 435 084 971