



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Health outcomes: Facilitating knowledge exchange and transfer

Professor Nicholas Glasgow

HEALTH OUTCOMES 2008:

Facilitating Knowledge Exchange and Transfer For a Dynamic Future

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Overview

- Research evidence into policy and APHCRI
- “Linkage and Exchange”
 - Don’t get hung up on words
- APHCRI’s approach
- Lessons learned

Research evidence into policy and APHCRI

- Key focus for the Institute
- Policy questions are messy
- Multiple data inputs drive policy
- Research is only one source of relevant information
- How can research better inform policy?
 - Producer-push
 - User-pull
 - Co-producers
- What is “use” of research?

Some basics in “linkage and exchange”

- Communicate with each other
 - Communication is more than talking at others
- Respectfully
 - The issues are complex
- Why?
 - To get the question right
 - To keep on track
 - To allow early results to be considered and interpreted

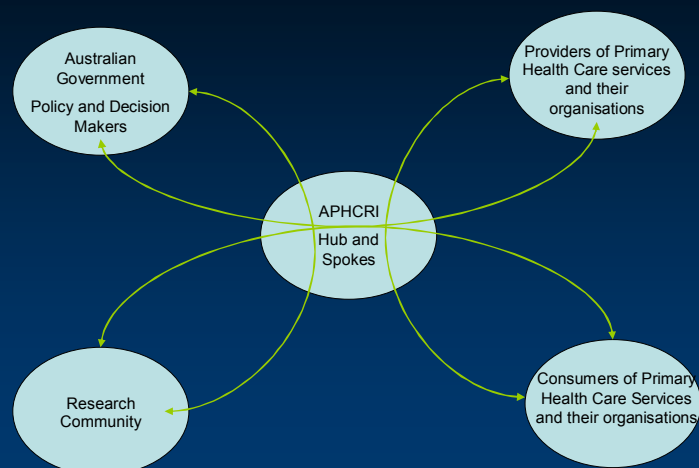
Linkage and exchange

- “For too long implementation of health services research has been viewed as a technical exercise in better dissemination; now is the time to highlight the importance of inter-personal links and the need to embed exchange between applied research and practice within health service delivery organisations.”

Goering, P., D. Butterill, et al. (2003). "Linkage and exchange at the organizational level: a model of collaboration between research and policy." *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy* 8: S14.

- Who needs to be linked?

Linkage and exchange [1]



[1] Lomas J. Using 'linkage and exchange' to move research into policy at a Canadian foundation. *Health Affairs* 2000; 19:236-40

Linkage and exchange

- **“The current definition of research needs to be expanded to include at least the following as ‘fundable’ stages of the research process**
 - The initial consultation with decision makers (needed to inform relevant research questions);
 - The ongoing linkages (needed to maintain decision makers’ interest and researchers’ relevance); and
 - The post-project communication and exchange (needed to make all decision makers aware of the research results)”

C. H. S. R. F. (1999). "Issues in Linkage and Exchange Between Researchers and Decision Makers." *Canadian Health Services Research Foundation* (May 1999)

Linkage and exchange APHCRI style

- **Communities of interest – more than two**
- **Research priorities/topics built through consultations with policy advisers**
- **Research Advisory Board includes senior policy advisers in both Commonwealth and State jurisdictions and senior members of all “communities”**
- **Expert Review Committee expertise across communities**
- **Assessment criteria for applications within Stream Six reflect emphasis on policy and provider expertise in addition to more usual “academic” criteria**
- **Focus on systematic review**

Linkage and exchange APHCRI style (cont)

- Funding explicitly supports researchers' participation in linkage and exchange activities (early results)
- Structured research workshops bringing policy advisors and researchers together
- Approach facilitates development of personal relationships across communities
- International experts and resources engaged
- Communication strategy developed and implemented including:
 - APHCRI Dialogue
 - APHCRI@work
 - Web site including thematic presentation of work
 - Adaptation of CHSRF 1.3.25 presentation of results

Lessons learned

- Relationships require continuing commitment and effort
- Time pressures are real
- Formulating easily grasped key messages and appropriately acknowledging the uncertainty in the evidence supporting them is a difficult task and not one researchers find easy