

Translating research into policy and practice: considerations for study design

Emerging Health Policy Research Conference

Gai Moore: PhD Student University of Sydney

Supervisors: Sally Redman; Mary Haines

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Aims of study

- To test interventions that increase
 - the production of policy relevant research
 - Policy makers' awareness of this research
 - use of this research in policy
- NHMRC 2008 Capacity Building Grants for Population Health and Health Services Research

Background

- Translating research into policy: the cornerstone of healthcare
- Little empirical evidence of effectiveness
- What works, for whom, in what circumstances?

Knowledge Translation

KT is about making users aware of knowledge .. and facilitating their use of it to improve health and health care systems.

- Dynamic, interactive and iterative
- Interplay of people, evidence, context
- Engaging researchers & policymakers
- Tools and 'credible intermediaries'

Graham ID & Tetroe JM. Getting evidence into policy & practice: Perspective of a health research funder. *J Can Acad Adolesc Psychiatry*, February 2009, 18:1;46-50

Factors that influence uptake

- Multi-faceted strategies tailored to evidence, people, contexts
- Syntheses, summaries, key messages
- Strong policy/research relationships
- Ongoing opportunities for exchange
- Organisational readiness (capacity, systems, resources)
- Knowledge brokers & facilitators
- Participation & Partnerships
- Incentives for researchers

OSPREY: The test site

- Outcomes, Services & Policy for Reproductive & Early Years Capacity Building Program
 - Using linked health services data for research to improve health services
 - Addressing policy-relevant questions about mothers, babies & children
1. Improving safety and quality of hospital care
 2. Reproductive & women's health services
 3. Quality of care for Aboriginal children
 4. Novel statistical methods
 5. Translating research into policy and practice

Jorm L, Preen D, Simpson J, Moorin R, Haines M, Bambrick H, Holman D. Outcomes, Services & Policy for Reproductive & Early Years (OSPREY) Capacity Building Program , NHMRC December 2008.

Building policy maker awareness

Focus

- What do we want to translate?
- Who do we want to influence?
- What do we want to achieve?
- How do we want to do it?
- How will we know we did it?

Strategies

- Building relationships
- Understanding needs
- Selecting the evidence
- Targeting strategies
- Shaping products
- Participative methods
- Measuring outcomes
- Intermediaries

Relevance for policy

- What encourages researchers to translate their findings for specific policy audiences?
- What kinds of interaction foster receptivity to emerging research ?
- What tools and pathways most increase awareness and use of emerging research?

Next steps

- Consider design options for interventions
- Identify robust measures of impact
- Work with investigators on how to embed strategies
- Data collection!

Feedback and advice?

- Policy makers – what interventions do you think will work?
- Researchers – what interventions would they like to be engaged in?

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