

How can research influence policy?

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Australian and New Zealand Fall Prevention
Society Seminar



Health

Role of research in healthcare and public health

- Health research has high value to society.
- It can provide important information about:
 - disease trends and risk factors;
 - effectiveness of treatment or public health interventions;
 - patterns of care and service provision, and
 - health costs and efficiency.



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Qualitative
Policy Impact
Health care
Evidence
Social care
Research

Research investment

- Biomedical research has been estimated to consume almost a quarter of a trillion US dollars globally every year.
- About 85% of global health and medical research investment is wasted (\$200 billion annually)¹
- A consistent findings from clinical and health services research is the failure to translate research into practice and policy ²



Evidence – practice gap

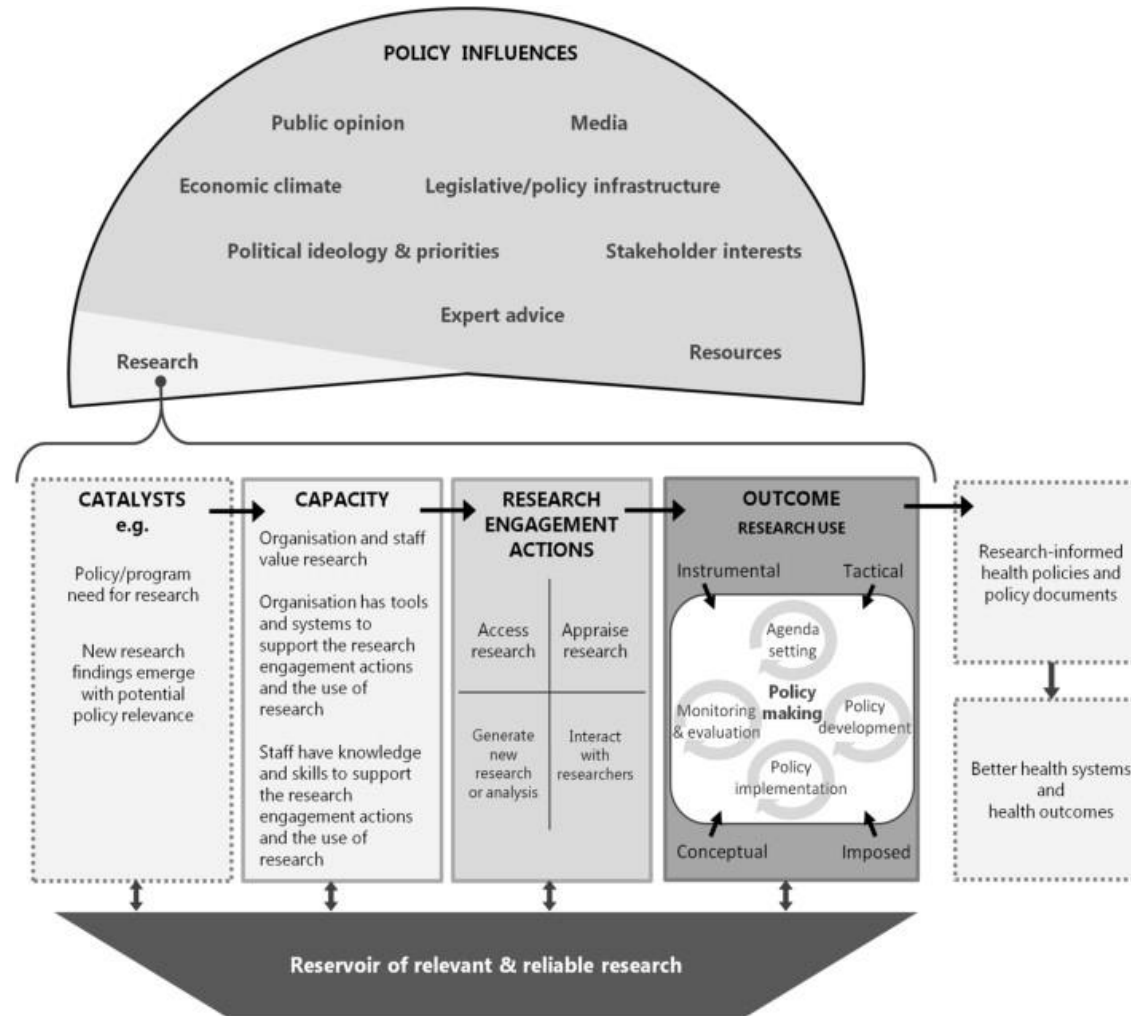
- Most research is not translated into practice. (Newson et al 2015)
- The process of translation when it occurs is often “slow and haphazard” (Morris et al, 2011, Milat et al 2013)
- On average it takes 17 years to move research into clinical practice (Morris et al, 2011)
- In prevention can take between 5-12 years to move research into practice (Milat et al 2013)

➤ Morris Z S, Wooding S, Grants J (2011). The answer is 17 years, what is the question: understanding time lags in translational research. *J R Soc Med.* 2011 Dec; 104(12): 510–520. doi: 10.1258/jrsm.2011.110180

➤ Milat et al (2013). Policy and practice impacts of applied research: a case study analysis of the New South Wales Health Promotion Demonstration Research Grants Scheme 2000-2006. *Health Res Policy Syst.* 2013 Feb 2;11:5. doi: 10.1186/1478-4505-11-5

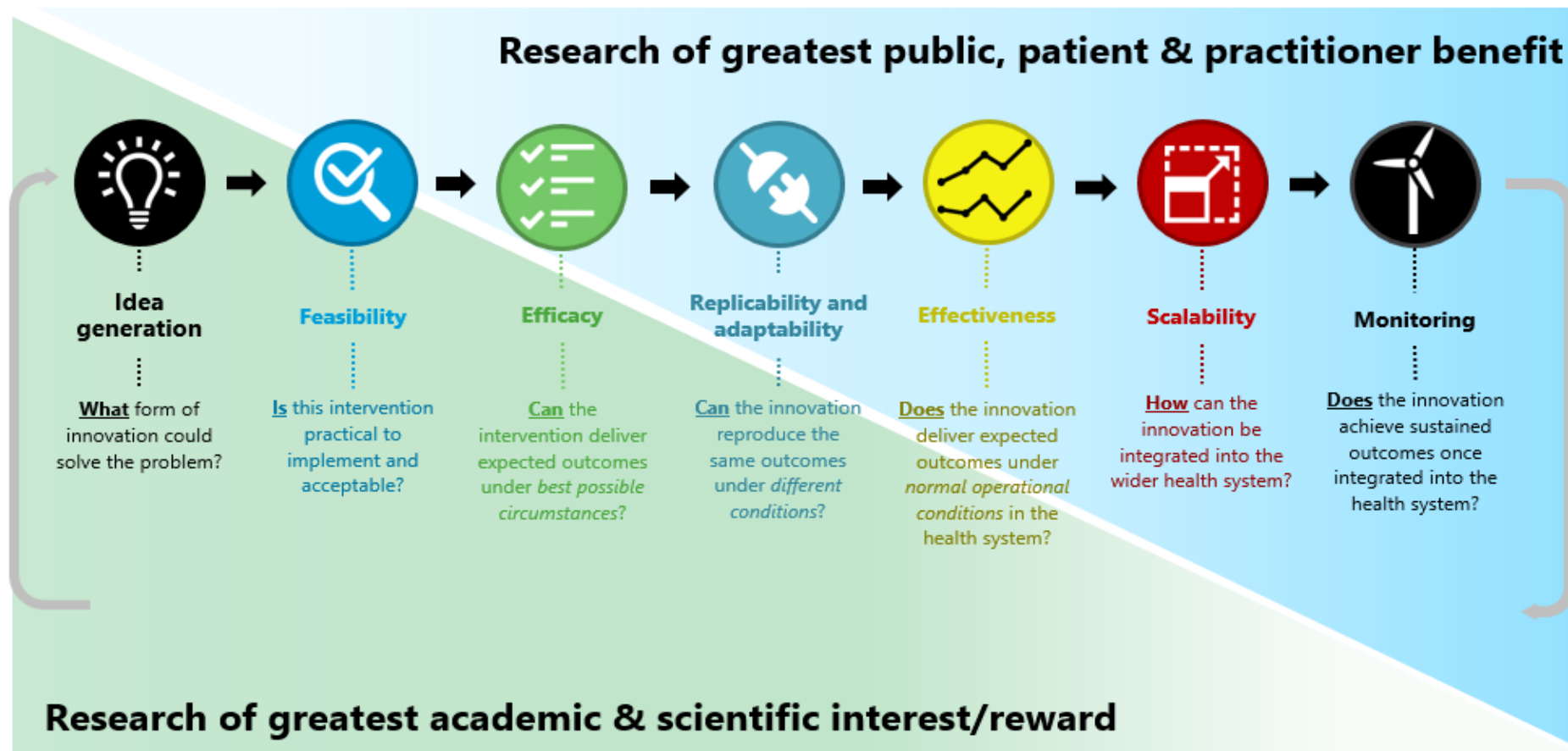
➤ Newson, R., King, L., Rychetnik, L., Bauman, A., Redman, S, Milat, A., Schroeder, J., Cohen, G., Chapman, S. (2015). A mixed methods study of the factors that influence whether intervention research has policy and practice impacts: perceptions of Australian researchers. *BMJ Open*, 5(7), 1-13. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2015-008153>

Increasing use of research in policy: SPIRIT Action Framework



Source: Redman S Turner T, Davies H, Williamson A, Haynes A, Brennan S, Milat A et al (2015). **The SPIRIT Action Framework: A structured approach to selecting and testing strategies to increase the use of research in policy.** *Social Science & Medicine* 136–137:147-155. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.05.009> Supporting Policy In health with Research: an Intervention Trial (SPIRIT)

Translational research framework



Importance of intervention research

Only 1 in 5 published studies are intervention research

3-8 % of intervention studies are 'effectiveness' or 'scalability'

RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

Indigenous health research: a critical review of outputs over time

Robert W Sanson-Fisher, Elizabeth M Campbell, Janice J Perkins, Steve V Blunden and Bob B Davis

Milat et al. *BMC Public Health* 2011, 11:804
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/11/804>



CORRESPONDENCE

Open Access

Public health research outputs from efficacy to dissemination: a bibliometric analysis

Andrew J Milat^{1,2*}, Adrian E Bauman², Sally Redman¹ and Nada Curac²

We Are What We Do Research Outputs of Public Health

Rob W. Sanson-Fisher, PhD, Elizabeth M. Campbell, PhD
Cynthia J. Millar, BSc

A description of public health research output and citation 523

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Short Report

What is generated and what is used: a description of public health research output and citation

Luke Wolfenden^{1,2,3}, Andrew J. Milat^{4,5}, Christophe Lecathelinais³, Rob W. Sanson-Fisher^{1,2}, Mariko L. Carey^{1,2}, Jamie Bryant^{1,2}, Amy Waller^{1,2}, John Wiggers^{1,2,3}, Tara Clinton-McHarg^{1,2}, Sze Lin Yoong^{1,2,3}

Increasing research influence

- Set research priorities and research questions that take in account of the **needs of end users**³
- Conduct research in **collaboration with end users**³
- Establish **‘implementation laboratories’** that encourages the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices into routine practice⁴

³ Chalmers I, Bracken MB, Djulbegovic D, Garattini S, Grant J, Gulmezoglu AM, Howells DW, Ioannidis JP, Oliver S. Research: increasing value, reducing waste: low to increase value and reduce waste when research priorities are set. *Lancet* 2014; 383: 156-165.

⁴ Ivers NM, Grimshaw JM. Reducing research waste with implementation laboratories. *Lancet* 2016; 388(10044): 547-8.



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

Public Health

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/puhe



Original Research

The correlation between National Health Service trusts' clinical trial activity and both mortality rates and care quality commission ratings: a retrospective cross-sectional study



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ELSEVIER



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Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 85 (2017) 3–11

**Journal of
Clinical
Epidemiology**

COMMENTARIES

Embedding researchers in health service organizations improves research translation and health service performance: the Australian Hunter New England Population Health example

Luke Wolfenden ^{a,b,c,*}, Sze Lin Yoong ^{a,b,c}, Christopher M. Williams ^{a,b,c}, Jeremy Grimshaw ^d, David N. Durrheim ^{a,b,c}, Karen Gillham ^{a,b,c}, John Wiggers ^{a,b,c}

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Research partnerships with end users

Benefits for researchers

- develop a better understanding of system and policy issues
- obtain clearer policy direction for future research
- gain access to a research ‘laboratory’ and funding
- gain support from the Health Organisations, including recognition of the value of their research
- provides an avenue for the translation of their research

Benefits for policy makers/practitioners

- better alignment of research with health system and local priorities
- provides access to researcher knowledge
- broader range of evidence on which to base decisions
- provides contacts for ad hoc advice
- supports capability development

Bullock A, Morris ZS, Atwell C. Collaboration between health services managers and researchers: making a difference? *J Health Services Res Policy* 2012; 17(Suppl 2): 2-10

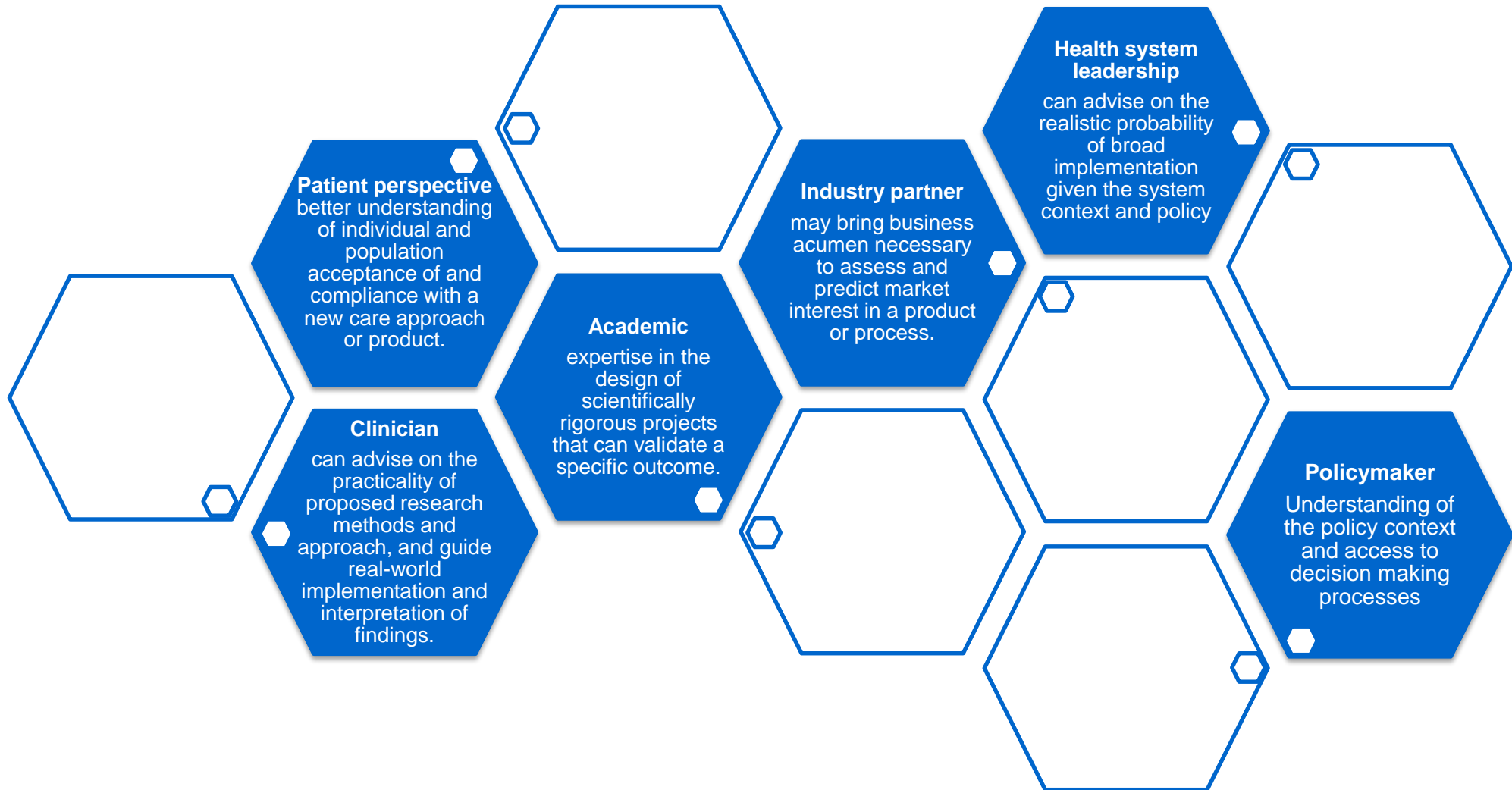
Morris ZS, Bullock A, Atwell C. Developing engagement, linkage and exchange between health services managers and researchers: Experience from the UK. *J Health Services Res Policy* 2013; 18(1Suppl): 23-29.

Milat AJ, Laws R, King L et al. Policy and practice impacts of applied research: a case study analysis of the New South Wales Health promotion Demonstration Research Grants Scheme 2000-2006. *Health Res Policy and Systems* 2013; 11(5).

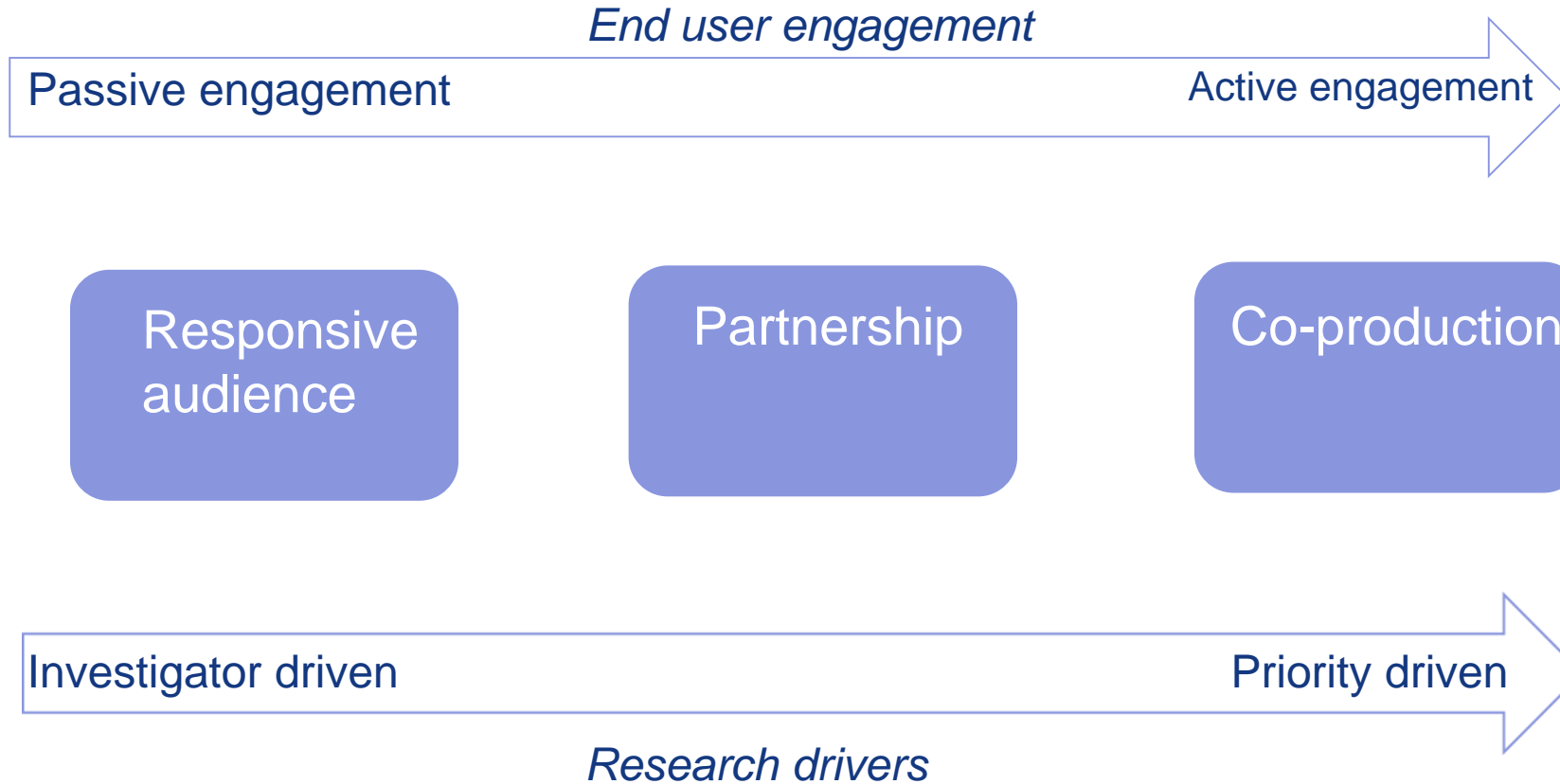
Nous Group (2015). Mid-term review of the PHHSRS Program – Final Report. NSW Ministry of Health.

Williamson, Makker, Redman, (2019) How was research engaged with and used in the development of 131 policy documents? Findings and measurement implications from a mixed methods study. *Implementation Science*. 14:44<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-019-0886-2>

Different perspectives and strengths



Types of research partnership



Partnering with policy agencies

The screenshot shows the NSW Health website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area is titled 'Guidelines for developing research grant partnerships' and includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Population Health Research > Guidelines for developing research grant partnerships. A sidebar on the left lists various research-related topics. The main text discusses the importance of early partner involvement and provides a list of reasons why partnership is important.

NSW GOVERNMENT Health

Search... PUBLIC PROFESSIONALS HEALTHY LIVING ABOUT MEDIA PUBLICATIONS CAREERS MINISTERS

Home > Population Health Research > Guidelines for developing research grant partnerships

Guidelines for developing research grant partnerships

Population health research

Population Health Research Strategy

Population health guidance series

Prevention Research Support Program

Policy and program evaluation

Population health research assets

Guidelines for developing research grant partnerships

Health Promotion Demonstration Research Grants Scheme 2000-2010

Capability building

Joint research initiatives with the NSW Ministry of Health are most successful when all partners are involved early in the development of the research proposal and when partner contributions are clearly defined.

While there are a range of research partnerships, this page highlights issues for external partners to consider when entering into formal partnerships for research grants involving the NSW Ministry of Health.

Why is partnership important?

- There is evidence that interaction between researchers, policy makers and practitioners is likely to increase the use of research.
- In particular, co-production of research - where policy makers are involved in developing research questions, undertaking the research, interpreting the findings, and disseminating the results - is likely to produce more policy-relevant and practice-relevant research, and have a greater impact on policy.

Types of research grant partnerships

- Funding structures involving co-sponsorship have the potential to promote partnerships between policy makers and researchers and to increase motivation for linkage and exchange more generally.
- Grant schemes that require both researcher and practitioner involvement include:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/research/Pages/research-grants-partnerships-guidelines.aspx>

- ✓ Establish research partnerships **at the inception** of the project
- ✓ **Be clear what you want** from the policy agency (financial and/or in-kind contributions; access to program, administrative or survey data; epi or statistical expertise; policy expertise)
- ✓ **Identify clear research questions:**
 - clinically and policy relevant
 - aligned with system (local and/or state) priorities
 - be clear where on the translation continuum project sits
 - clearly defined outcomes
- ✓ **Align capabilities and partner interests.**
- ✓ Honest discussion about **incentives and deal breakers**
- ✓ Work towards relationships that generate **trust and mutual respect**

**HOW DO WE INCREASE RESEARCH
USE IN POLICY AND PRACTICE IN
NSW HEALTH?**

A long-term strategic approach in NSW

Generating the 'right' research evidence

- Competitive funding schemes
- Funding priority research
- Generating rigorous 'evidence-from-the-field'
- Focus on implementation science and scale-up

Translation and knowledge mobilisation

- Bridging the gap between decision makers and researchers
- Developing and maintaining research assets
- Capability building
- Accountability



The Australian Prevention
Partnership Centre
Systems and solutions for better health

Investment in research pipeline, partnerships and capability building

Research assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL)• HealthStats NSW• Secure Analytics for Population Health Research and Intelligence (SAPHaRI)• NSW Health Statewide biobank
Priority research centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Activity, Nutrition and Obesity Research Group (PANORG)• BBV and STI Research, Intervention and Strategic Evaluation Program (BRISE)#
Competitive funding schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Translational Research Grants Scheme (TRGS)• Early-Mid Career Fellowships• Prevention Research Support Program (PRSP)• Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Early Intervention Innovation Grants
Collaborative research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NHMRC Partnership Centre: The Australia Prevention Partnership Centre• NHMRC Partnership Projects• Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grants
Other research and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core funding for the Sax Institute• Funding provided directly by policy areas for research projects• Commissioned evaluations of policies and programs
Enablers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSW Health population health training programs• NSW population health networks

BBV=blood borne viruses, STI=sexually transmissible infections



<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/research/Pages/population-health-guidance-series.aspx>



Conclusion

- There is a substantial gap between evidence generation and use in policy practice.
- Effective research partnerships with end users can:
 - ensure a focus on the right research questions
 - reduce the time from evidence generation to practice implementation
 - improve patient and community outcomes
 - enhance research capability and capacity within health systems
 - reduce research waste