



## Research excellence, knowledge exchange and policy development

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Research evidence can be a powerful tool for effecting change. Hefty research reports can also completely miss the mark and be used as doorstops. The science of knowledge exchange and translation is young. This paper explores how we—as researchers, service providers, policy makers and health service planners—can maximise benefit to the population and to health outcomes through the process of research translation or knowledge exchange.

The paper addresses the questions: Why does an idea's time come when it does? How can high quality research make a difference in the real world? It briefly describes the policy process. The paper then draws on the work of the Centre of Research Excellence in Rural and Remote Primary Health Care (CRERRPHC) to examine the key features of an effective knowledge exchange process.