

Maximising value by increasing usability of research findings: assessing the impact of a novel participatory approach to disseminating findings from an Indigenous primary healthcare project

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Background

Investment in strategies that optimise and accelerate translation of research outputs to end users has potential to increase the impact and value of research. Dissemination strategies involving increased engagement of end users are one mechanism to facilitate translation. The 'Engaging Stakeholders in Identifying Priority Evidence-Practice Gaps and Strategies for Improvement in Primary Health Care (ESP) Project implemented an active dissemination strategy to engage diverse stakeholders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary healthcare in using and interpreting quality improvement data for health system improvement.

Objectives

To assess impact of the ESP Project in terms of i) stakeholders increased knowledge and understanding of data, ii) use of the data and iii) potential to influence policy and practice.

Method

The Framework to Assess the Impact of Translational health research (FAIT) was applied to the ESP Project. Data were gathered through in-depth interviews with ESP researchers and a review of project documentation and outputs.

Results

The impact of the ESP Project, including proposed ways in which stakeholders would use data and other outputs of the project, was mapped to domains of benefit in the modified Payback model used in FAIT. Domains included knowledge advancement, capacity building, practice change and policy. A narrative was developed to describe how the research findings were translated and the pathways to impact.

Conclusion

The ESP Project presents a valuable example of using collaborative knowledge generation (co-creation) for research dissemination. Such participatory approaches stand to optimise the usability, value and translation of research findings, thereby maximising research impact.

249 words