

## **Feasibility and acceptability of living systematic reviews: results from a mixed methods evaluation**

**Anneliese Synnot<sup>1</sup>**, Tanya Millard<sup>1</sup>, Tari Turner<sup>1</sup>, Steve McDonald<sup>1</sup>, Sally Green<sup>1</sup>, Julian Elliott<sup>1</sup>

*1 Cochrane Australia, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia*

### **Background**

Living systematic reviews (LSRs), systematic reviews that are continually updated, are currently being piloted by several teams within Cochrane and the international LSR Network. It is hypothesised LSRs may reduce research waste by streamlining processes and enabling living guidelines. However, they require modifications to authoring and editorial processes and pose technical and publishing challenges.

### **Objectives**

To understand the experiences of authors, editors and others in producing LSRs and assess the feasibility and acceptability of LSRs.

### **Method**

We are conducting a mixed-methods evaluation (completion mid-2018) with 17 participants (7 authors, 3 managing editors, 3 search specialists and 4 editorial/other staff). Participants are contributing to one or more of 6 LSRs (3 Cochrane; 3 non-Cochrane). They take part in up to three semi-structured interviews, exploring their experiences of contributing to the LSR, and the barriers, facilitators, challenges and advantages of the LSR processes used. Key pilot team members complete monthly surveys capturing time for key tasks and the number of citations identified and screened.

### **Results**

Across pilots, search frequency is monthly to 3-monthly, with some using machine learning and Cochrane Crowd to screen searches. Varied approaches are being used to communicate updates to readers. Early results show: strong enthusiasm for involvement; importance of motivated, efficient teams to manage workload; machine learning and Cochrane Crowd helps to manage workflow and save time; the translation of the continuous process into a reliable, streamlined operation; and longer-term potential for time and effort savings. Findings to date support feasibility and acceptability of LSR production.