



Community of Practice Research-Policy Translation

Position Statement

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Research-Policy Translation* Position Statement:

Improving research-policy collaboration to deliver better community impact.

Purpose Brief:

The purpose of this **Community of Practice for Research-Policy Translation (CoP)** is to enhance capacity and capability for evidence-based policymaking by fostering collaboration and facilitating knowledge exchange.

Statement of Position:

The gap between research and policymaking has long been a challenge. While robust evidence from research has the potential to shape public policy for the better, translating this evidence into actionable policy remains a complex and multifaceted process.

We assert that communities of practice with a focus on the translation of research insights into policy are essential for creating effective and evidence-driven public policies; these communities foster the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and strategies between researchers, policymakers, boundary spanners, and other stakeholders.

By leveraging the collective expertise within these communities, policymakers are better equipped to make decisions that reflect the latest evidence, while researchers gain insight into the real-world application and implications of their work. This collaborative model strengthens policy outcomes by ensuring that decisions are rooted in the best available evidence, leading to more impactful and sustainable policies.

Community of Practice (CoP) Affirms the Following Research-Policy Translation (RPT) Principles:

- Effective research translation is critical to evidence-informed policy and practice
- Societal challenges are complex and span multiple sectors and disciplines
- The research community and public sector must collaborate both within and across their respective domains to co-design and deliver effective public policy
- Co-designing, synthesising, and applying scientific evidence to policy and practice must be systematic, timely, measurable, ethical, and sustainable
- Capacity must be built across all sectors to strengthen and sustain collaboration.
- Successful research translation is built upon trust and respect
- Communication needs to be positive, transparent, and timely

CoP Notes the Following Evidence:

- For public policy to respond effectively to social, economic, and health challenges, there is an urgent need for research-policy collaboration to advance evidence-informed policy.
- Collaboration between research and policy actors increases the likelihood that results are co-produced and align with the needs of both decision-makers and stakeholders.
- For strategic and effective evidence translation, collaboration needs to occur at all stages of the policymaking and research processes.
- The work of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners is often siloed, with limited opportunities to connect, cooperate, and learn from each other.
- There is a seventeen-year gap between research and its translation into practice.
- Working together is difficult, and the challenges increase when multidisciplinary teams from across both the academic community and public sectors must collaborate.
- Interpersonal and inter-organisational relationships need to be underpinned by long-term strategic and institutional support.
- Numerous factors influence the methods, quality, and effectiveness of research translation, including the:
 - needs and objectives of research, policy, and practice communities
 - capacity and interest of individuals, teams, and their respective institutions
 - alignment of research and policy agendas with the needs of the community, and the
 - broader social, economic, and political environment.

Terminology*:

Terms used interchangeably to describe the research to policy and practice translation process:

- Research translation
- Knowledge translation
- Knowledge exchange
- Knowledge mobilisation
- Evidence-informed decision-making
- Knowledge to action

Terms used to describe the study of research translation and implementation strategies:

- Implementation science
- Translational science

** Please note – as this is a developing field of research, the terminology is continually evolving. This list reflects the most commonly used terms but is not exhaustive.*

Research Translation Strategies:

A range of strategies can be used to facilitate research translation and implementation. Strategies are commonly described in three categories:

○ **Push:**

Researchers ‘push out’ knowledge, for example research papers, evidence syntheses or policy briefs (typically at the end of the research process).

○ **Pull:**

Policymakers and other users ‘pull’ knowledge into their decision-making processes, for example, commissioned research.

○ **Exchange:**

Partnerships, networks, and relationships between community members, researchers, and policymakers are central to knowledge exchange, for example, through co-design and co-production approaches.

Call to Action:

- All Australian Government bodies and academic institutions to support the increased translation of research into policy and practice by:
 - Increasing capacity for research-policy translation and the facilitation of collaborative decision-making
 - Including research translation as a key performance indicator (KPI)
 - Establishing inter-disciplinary research, policy, and practice teams
 - Developing mechanisms to monitor and evaluate research translation, implementation, and impact
 - Collecting and promoting best practice examples and case studies of research-policy translation
- The Australian Government, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and Australian Research Council (ARC) to:
 - Establish a research-policy translation fund
 - Require all grant applications to include a publicly available research-policy translation plan to ensure transparency and accountability in research translation efforts
- Research translation capacity to be built into government and academic institutions through:
 - Developing, implementing, and promoting training for public and academic sectors on multidisciplinary/multisectoral collaboration and leveraging evidence
 - Increasing support for research translation among early career researchers and policymakers
 - Creating supportive institutional environments that actively foster boundary spanners and boundary-spanning organisations
 - Boundary-spanning teams to facilitate cross-sector and interdisciplinary engagement, enabling knowledge exchange and fostering relationships

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Appendix – CoP Statement of Resolution



Community of Practice
Research-Policy
Translation

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The Research - Policy Translation* **Community of Practice Resolves to:**

- Operate through three primary functions:
 - Information sharing
 - Capacity development
 - Advocacy
- Foster collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to bridge the research-policy-practice gap.
- Facilitate connections between researchers, policy makers, and practitioners through quarterly workshops and ongoing communication.
- Develop a set of indicators that government and academic institutions can use to help monitor research-policy translation performance.
- Build a case study repository of best practice examples of research-policy translation.
- Continuously monitor and evaluate the CoP's activities and effectiveness using self-developed process and outcome indicators, ensuring ongoing improvement.

*Reference to the translation of research into policy inherently includes practice. The term has been shortened for brevity, but the full concept of research-policy-practice translation remains implied.