

Knowledge Translation

Fiona M Blyth

University of Sydney.

While the volume of research produced each year rises considerably, the translation of research findings into health policy and practice remains slow and patchy. Increasingly, funders of health and medical research require researchers to demonstrate the impact of their work beyond the traditional measure of publications citations.

The last two decades have seen the development of a new field of research into knowledge translation, which seeks to understand how evidence is translated into policy and practice, the barriers and enablers to successful translation, and research around interventions aimed at improving translation. This new field incorporates a range of academic disciplines that are relatively unknown to health researchers and practitioners, for example policy science.

In this talk I will address two important questions, with illustrative examples:

1. Why does research not get translated into practice?
2. How do we use research findings (or plan research) to influence policy and change in practice?