

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

From Research to Health Policy

Conjoint Professor Sally Redman and Professor Louisa Jorm from the School of Medicine along with an international team of researchers are investigating the use of research evidence in developing health policy. The National Health and Medical Research Council has funded a Centre for Research Excellence - The Centre for Informing Policy in Health with Evidence from Research - to carry out this work.

'Governments across the world have recognised that too often policy and practice lag behind the findings that emerge from research,' says Professor Redman. 'The use of evidence from research can improve health outcomes and optimise resource allocation but we don't know what does and doesn't work to improve the uptake of research evidence into policy. This project will, for the first time, rigorously test strategies to help government and other policy agencies find and use evidence from research in their work.'

The Centre for Informing Policy in Health with Evidence from Research (CIPHER) also brings together two of Australia's leading groups in the use of research evidence in policy (The Sax Institute and the Australasian Cochrane Centre) along with an international leader (Research Unit for Research Utilisation). CIPHER will work with a wide range of policy agencies from across the government, non-government and private sectors to look at methods to evaluate strategies to increase research use, test the impact of an integrated intervention and develop new strategies to increase the use of research evidence in policy.



The findings of this study will inform the approach taken by health policy agencies in making best use of evidence from research in their work. Greater use of research in policy making may lead to improved health outcomes and optimised allocation of resources.

Project Title: Centre for Informing Policy in Health with Evidence from Research (CIPHER)

Funding has been set at: \$2,496,375

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