

## Designing a research impact methodology for translational research

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#### Background

Assessing the impact of research beyond academic outcomes is of growing importance, however tracking longer-term translational outcomes, such as policy or practice changes and wide-reaching societal outcomes is challenging.

#### Objectives

After a long history of investing in research, WorkSafe Victoria required a systematic and sophisticated method to measure and evaluate the impact of their research program on internal policies, procedures and decision-making across the organisation, as well external impacts on systems, stakeholders and clients. This project aimed to develop and test an implementable method for assessing different levels of research impact across WorkSafe's entire research portfolio.

#### Method

The Institute for Work & Health's Research Impact Framework provided the conceptual basis for the WorkSafe framework. In developing the methodology to operationalize this framework, it was aligned with WorkSafe's strategic goals and co-development approach of research project design. An end-to-end methodology was developed; from project design phase, through to post-completion surveys to track research usage and identify projects for detailed assessment via case studies and economic assessment.

#### Results

The streamlined approach developed utilised existing processes to collect and collate research output data for longer-term impact assessment. The approach was also proactive in identifying anticipated types and levels of impact during project design, allowing tailoring to each individual project. The usage of post-project completion surveys allowed rapid tracking of research usage relevant to their anticipated impact.

#### Conclusions

We have developed an implementable method for WorkSafe Victoria to routinely assess research impact on policy, practice and society across its diverse applied research portfolio.