

Considering Impact of Research from a Consumer and Community Perspective

The following questions set out considerations for researchers interested in assessing the impact of their research according to consumer and community expectations. These questions can be addressed when drafting final project reports, and during translation (if applicable).

1. Were the objectives of the research achieved?

- (a) yes
- (b) partially
- (c) no, but findings contributed significantly to knowledge base
- (d) no

2. Did the research improve the health outcome for people with a specific health challenge by:

- (a) Contributing to the prevention of a health condition or the development of a new diagnostic test, treatment or service
- (b) Improving the safety, quality, effectiveness, cost-effectiveness or access to an existing diagnostic test, treatment or service
- (c) Facilitating the assessment, modification or deletion of an existing health service
- (d) Adding to the current knowledge of:
 - i basic science
 - ii healthcare service design, models of care and or services
 - iii public health and illness prevention
 - iv clinical diagnostics, treatments or care?

3. Did the research project:

- (a) address an area of urgent unmet need
- (b) contribute to the prevention of a health condition
- (c) reduce the frequency of unnecessary or inappropriate treatments or care
- (d) address an existing inequity
- (e) develop a unique treatment for which there are no current alternatives?

4. What intellectual property, resources and increased skills were produced as a result of the research project? Who owns it and how will it be used to realise a benefit:

- (a) to the community e.g. by improving health outcomes, filling a key knowledge gap
- (b) to the future sustainability of the research sector in Australia?

5. Did the research contribute to the capacity of the sector by:

- (a) building new researcher capacity and/or knowledge
- (b) building new community/consumer capacity and/or knowledge
- (c) creating (or purchasing) new equipment or creating new successful methodology?



6. Have the findings of the research:

- (a) been provided to consumers and community members
- (b) demonstrated research impact in one or more of the following areas (see [Appendix 1](#) for guidance):
 - i knowledge
 - ii health
 - iii economic
 - iv social
- (d) been used to develop and conduct further research
- (e) other?

Attachment

Appendix 1 Types of Research Impact and Examples of Evidence of Research Impact

Appendix 1: Types of Research Impact and Examples of Evidence of Research Impact

The following table taken from the *2019 NHMRC Investigator Grant Opportunity Guidelines* may assist researchers to evaluate whether research findings demonstrated impact across four broad areas: knowledge; health; economic; or social.

Type	Description	Examples of evidence (not exhaustive)
Knowledge	New knowledge, demonstrating the benefits emerging from adoption, adaption or use of new knowledge to inform further research and/or understanding of what is effective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognition of research publications (e.g. citation metrics, particularly field weighted) • data sharing • contribution to registries or biobanks • prizes and conference presentations • uptake of research tools and techniques • evidence of uptake of the research by other disciplines
Health	Improvements in health through new therapeutics, diagnostics, disease prevention or changes in behaviour; or improvements in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, management of health problems, health policy, health systems and quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy or program adopted • a clinical guideline adopted • international or national practice standards adopted • improved service effectiveness • Phase I, Phase II and Phase III clinical trials underway or completed • improved productivity due to research innovations (e.g. reduced illness, injury) • Quality-Adjusted Life Years, Disability-Adjusted Life Years, Potential Years of Life Lost, Patient Reported Outcome Measure and other relevant indicators • relative stay index for multi-day stay patients, hospital standardised mortality ratio, cost per weighted separation and total case weighted separation • reports (including community and government)

Type	Description	Examples of evidence (not exhaustive)
Economic	<p>Improvements in the nation's economic performance through creation of new industries, jobs or valuable products, or reducing health care costs, improving efficiency in resource use, or improving the welfare/well-being of the population within current health system resources.</p> <p>An economic impact may also contribute to social or health impacts, including human capital gains and the value of life and health.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Health Care System Savings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relative stay index for multi-day stay patients, hospital standardised mortality ratio, cost per weighted separation and total case weighted separation • reduction in Medicare Benefits Schedule/Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme costs • improved productivity due to research innovations (e.g. reduced illness, injury) • improved service effectiveness <p style="text-align: center;">Product Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a research contract with an industry partner and an active collaboration • granting of a patent • execution of a licensing agreement with an established company • income from intellectual property • raising funding from venture capital or other commercial sources or from government schemes that required industry co-participation • successful exit from start-up company (public market flotation, merger or acquisition) • development of pre-good manufacturing practice prototype • successful generation or submission of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a regulatory standard data set ▪ applications for pre-market approval of a medical device ▪ a new drug or device for registration (e.g. by Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency, Therapeutic Goods Administration) • product sales
Social	<p>Improvements in the health of society, including the well-being of the end user and the community. This may include improved ability to access health care services, to participate socially (including empowerment and participation in decision-making) and to quantify improvements in the health of society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uptake or demonstrated use of evidence by decision makers/policy makers • qualitative measures demonstrating changes in behaviours, attitudes, improved social equity, inclusion or cohesion • improved environmental determinants of health • improved social determinants of health • changes to health risk factors