

CREATE Methods Group

Introduction

Systematic review is acknowledged as an effective tool for helping to translate evidence into healthcare policy and best practice. However, it has been underutilised to inform healthcare policy and practice targeted at improving chronic disease and other health outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Aim

Our aim is to provide systematic review guidance, tools and reporting standards that align with principles for conducting ethical research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and embedding Indigenous knowledges into review findings and recommendations.

Objectives

The objectives of the CREATE Methods Group is to:

- Explore the strengths and limitations of systematic review methodology for knowledge synthesis and translation to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health;
- Develop and promote the use of appropriate systematic review guidance and tools (for example critical appraisal tools);
- Develop and promote the use of standards to enhance reporting of systematic reviews of research conducted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and
- Promote the use of the guidance and tools developed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and researchers through capacity strengthening initiatives.

Progress to Date

- An overview of systematic reviews addressing questions about chronic disease and related risk factors to inform prevention and management of chronic disease for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has been conducted. The overview identifies the number of systematic reviews conducted to date, assesses their methodological quality and describes their main characteristics. It also draws inferences about future research priorities, including those relating to methods for systematic review of evidence gathered with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
 - A paper disseminating the overview has been accepted by the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health.
 - A poster regarding the overview of systematic reviews is being presented at the 2015 PHC Research Conference on 29-31 July 2015.

- A working group was established in November 2014 to develop an appraisal tool for assessing published research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Over the last eighteen months the group has held ten workshops and in addition, the Indigenous members of the group have held four workshops. Guided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the group, in these workshops, we developed overarching principles and values to guide research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Informed by these principles and values, we developed a set of key questions to ask of research in order to assess whether the principles and values have been implemented in practice. We also drew on Indigenous research methodologies and established ethical guidelines. The draft tool, designed to be used as a supplement to existing critical appraisal tools relevant to the research design in study appraisal, has begun to be piloted.
- A workshop has been held with researchers from James Cook University who are working on the development of a tool for assessing the benefit of research conducted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to explore potentially mutually beneficial collaboration opportunities.
- An abstract has been submitted for the 9th Annual Health Services Research and Policy Conference to be held in Melbourne in December.

Next Steps – July 2015-2016

Activity	Timeframe
Overview of systematic reviews to inform prevention and management of chronic disease for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published in Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health • Presented at the PHC Research Conference • Complete synthesis, share with CREATE Leadership Group and develop paper 	24 July 2015 30 July 2015 By Dec 2015
Paper on the appraisal tool and its development submitted to a journal	By Dec 2015
Piloting and refinement of the tool	July 2015 – December 2015
Presentation at the 9 th Annual Health Services Research and Policy Conference	December 2015
Development of a companion document and guide for using the appraisal tool	By March 2016
Expert review of the tool and companion guide	April 2016
Initial workshops to develop reporting standards for systematic reviews	April 2016-June 2016