

Introducing the KERTI network

A Research Application Workshop was held immediately prior to the NHMRC Symposium on Research Translation in November 2014 with the aim of gathering relevant researchers and research users to *establish networks to improve the application of research in policy and practice*. At the conclusion of this workshop, the Primary Health Care Research & Information Service (PHCRIS) and Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) undertook to draft a document that outlined the vision of this network and our collective role, purpose and objectives. This document introduces these fundamentals and suggests an initial network activity based on feedback received at the workshop.

Network name

We aimed for an inclusive (easy to pronounce!) title for the network that acknowledges our respective roles: knowledge exchange, research translation and implementation. So—welcome to KERTI:

KE + RT + I = the KERTI network based on...

- Knowledge exchange (KE)—forming relationships to share information about research
- Research translation (RT)—research findings interpreted for users
- Implementation (I)—application of research for improvement
- Network—people committed to our vision, role, purpose and objectives.

Vision of the KERTI network

Primary health care policy and practice is demonstrably improved through routine application of relevant research.

Role of the KERTI network

The KERTI network is a national collaboration of people with a shared vision of advancing the fields of knowledge exchange, research translation and implementation to ensure more effective and demonstrable application of relevant research by research users to improve health care outcomes.

Purpose of the KERTI network

To create a national network to build capacity, share and promote opportunities to drive the objectives of the network.

Objectives

The KERTI network objectives are to:

- 1 **demonstrate the value** and appropriateness of knowledge exchange, research translation and implementation to the development of primary health care policy and practice **support and promote** the conduct of high quality knowledge exchange, research translation and implementation in primary health care
- 2 **develop the understanding, skills and expertise** of primary health care researchers and research users (e.g. PHNs, policy makers, consumers and practitioners) in knowledge exchange, research translation and implementation
- 3 promote the value of knowledge exchange, research translation and implementation methods in the **assessment criteria** for primary health care research funding
- 4 **provide opportunities for collaboration and capacity building** to share learning, identify mutual priorities and test innovation in knowledge exchange, research translation and implementation.

Secretariat and meetings

The Secretariat for KERTI will be run by PHCRIS in consultation with APHCRI. Members of KERTI will meet by webinar/virtually biannually to discuss any opportunities/issues related to the combined fields and may meet face-to-face aligned to a relevant conference to explore future areas of common interest/leverage.

Moving forward

Feedback from the network at its inaugural meeting in November 2014 demonstrated a common interest and priority in engaging consumers more actively in the research process as a means of increasing the uptake of research findings. Since this meeting there have been two KERTI workshops; one as part of the 2015 PHC Research Conference and another at the 2015 NHMRC Symposium on Research Translation.

We hope this notion of consolidating our strengths to make a profound difference to the routine application of relevant research is of interest. We look forward to your comments and engagement with KERTI.

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