

Questions for the afternoon

John Mathews

How important is evidence in allied health ?

- As a basis for service delivery
 - Effectiveness – things that work
 - Efficiency
- In education and training
- As a basis for new research
- As a basis for government recognition & funding

Overall objectives in health

Evidence-based practice

- What to do?
- How to do it?

Integration & coordination

- To meet client needs (ie client focus)
- To improve outcomes
- To improve efficiency

COMMUNICATION AS A KEY

- With clients
- Between disciplines

RECORD KEEPING

Advantages of a Centre for Research & Evidence

- Setting bench-marks for professional standards
- Improved packaging, distribution and translation of evidence
- Improved communication between professionals
- Better integration of services
- Identification of questions for future research
- A focus for collaboration between existing groups
- The evidence-base will be very useful to those who are not yet active in research

Can electronic support systems help to improve knowledge and to better integrate services ?

- Systematic reviews in allied health
- Translation of evidence base into action-based chunks
- Desk-top & on-line access to evidence-base and to action-plans
- On-line communication & referral between professionals
- Integration with electronic health records

Stakeholders

- Health consumers
- Medical and other health professionals
 - Which disciplines?
 - What roles for complementary/alternative practice?
 - Professional demarcation/accreditation matters
- DOHA & Medicare
- Health insurers
- NHMRC & ARC
- Universities

Matters to be addressed

Governance arrangements

- Steering committee in first instance

Funding

- Seed funding
- Establishment funding
- Research grant funding

Location

- Sponsoring institution(s)
- Potential accommodation

OVER TO YOU

In working groups