

Ensuring enabling environments to
engender uptake of public benefit
innovation

Achieving impact from public benefit
research – an ongoing challenge

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By Peter Shergold



'I have come across many academics who tell me that they are working in areas of public policy of the utmost importance - health care, housing need, workforce participation, early childhood development - yet shuffle uncomfortably when I ask exactly what policy changes they would introduce to address the problems which they have so carefully analysed'



The creation of public policy is not a straightforward linear path from research evidence to policy announcement.

Instead, it is an iterative process in which policy outcomes are driven by unexpected political opportunity and stymied by political intransigence and risk aversion.

The development of public policy.....

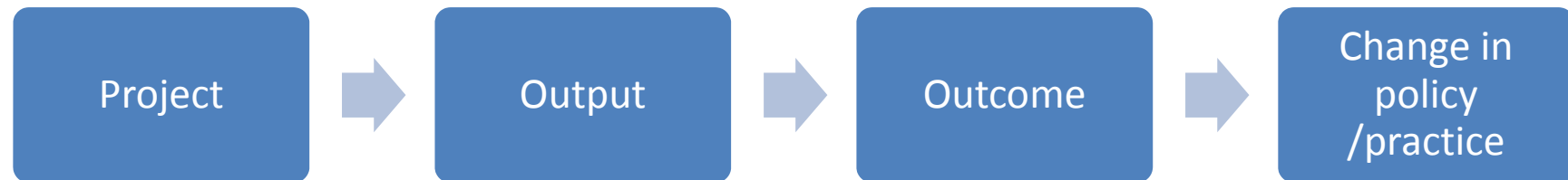
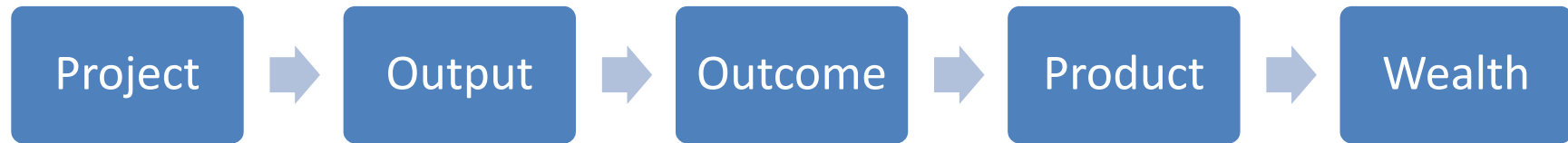
required the skill to steer public policy options through the uncertain byways of political compromise and advocacy.

were as dependent on emotional intelligence as intellectual inquiry. It was a matter of using evidence to build alliances and negotiate compromises to create political will and public support.

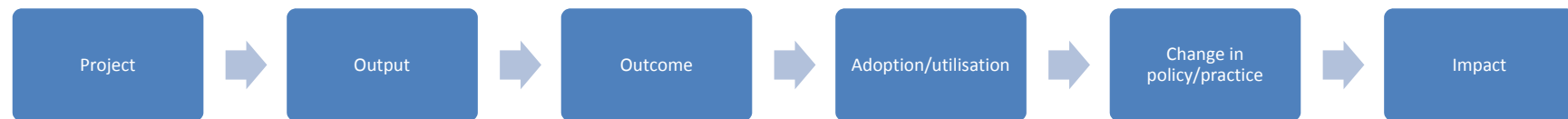
Academics.....

....., are rarely attracted to such a dirty world. Many researchers feel it is better to let one's research speak for itself rather than employ it to arrive at a negotiated, second-best, politically determined outcome.

Project information flow



Linear research outcome adoption model





Researchers.....

have things to say of profound importance to the nation's policy settings.

The ability to contribute to public policy needs to be extolled as one crucial manifestation of academic expertise, to be valued and rewarded. Only then will the evidence that underpins policy become more persuasive. *