

The evolution of research/policy partnership with impact: A case study

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A joint initiative of



TRANSPORT
ACCIDENT
COMMISSION



MONASH
University

Research
to
Action

Institute for Safety Compensation and Recovery Research (ISCRR)

- Joint venture of WorkSafe Victoria, Transport Accident Commission, Monash University.
- KPIs:
 - Impact on funders
 - Quality of research
- Established 1 Apr 2009. Funded to 30 June 2013 (\$25m) with major review 6 months prior to end of contract.
- Challenge: To go from standing start to demonstrable impact in 3 years 9 months!

Things Darwin never said...but perhaps should have.

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor
the most intelligent....It is the one that is the most
adaptable to change.”

“In the long history of humankind (and animal kind,
too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise
most effectively have prevailed.”

Evolution of a research/policy partnership

Projects (2009 – 11)

Large number of diverse issues addressed
Project-level engagement between academic and industry partners
Project development either via direct commissioning or investigator-initiated approaches
'Push' model of research translation
Focus on process and academic output

Programs (2012 – 13)

Small number of major themes
Alignment of academic expertise with partner business focus
Opportunity for greater engagement on priority issues (Program Advisory Groups)
Coordinated, cohesive, collaborative program development
Greater emphasis on end-user role in research translation
Focus on assessment of research impact

Portfolio (2013 ->)

Retain features of program model but overlay with portfolio management, including:

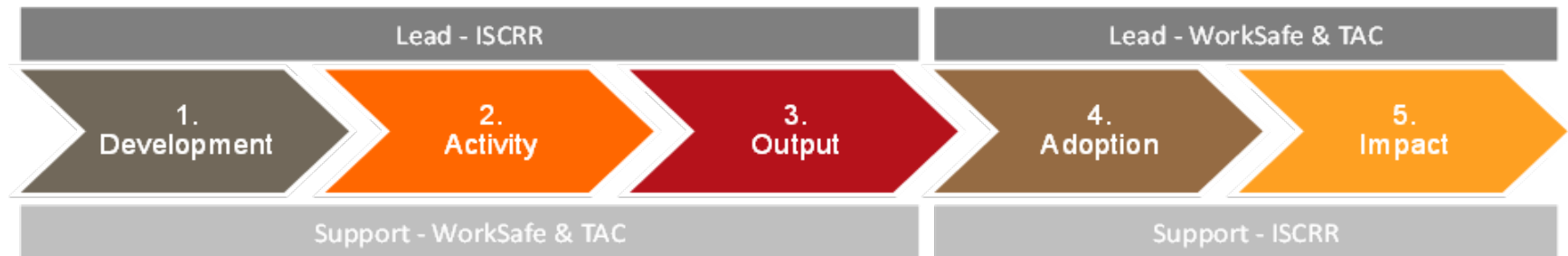
- * Articulation of 'ideal' research portfolio mix (e.g., risk vs return)
- * Selection and management of projects according to preferred portfolio mix.

Identification of cross cutting issues and 'linking up' projects across programs.

Research 'exchange' model of industry/academic interaction.

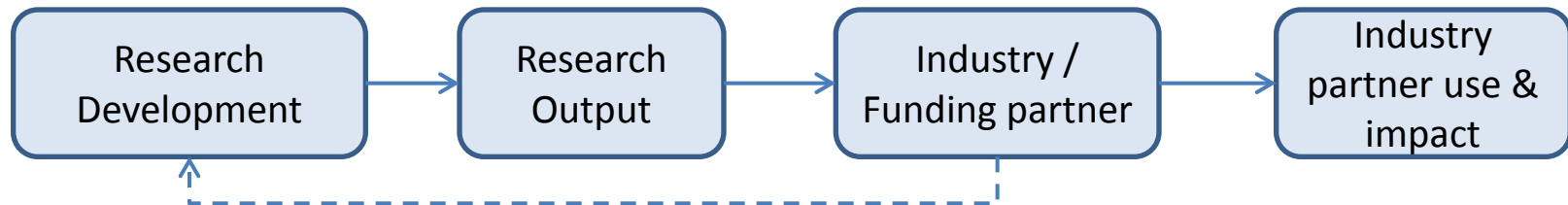
Identification of opportunities to leverage aspects of research portfolio

Research operating model



Pathways to impact (1)

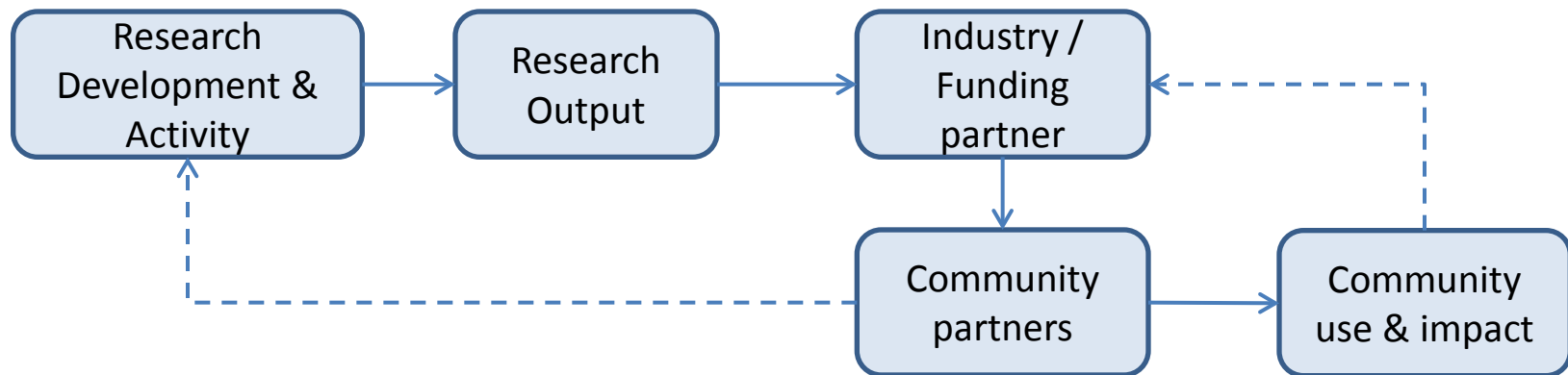
- Implantable Pain Therapies review



Investment	Adoption of Research	Impact of Research
\$73,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed WorkSafe and TAC treatment payment policies for intrathecal infusion and neurostimulation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.81m in costs avoided consisting of \$0.65m in costs saved over 3 years to June 2012 and \$1.16m in future costs avoided. • Contributed to change in culture towards evidence based decision making. • Helped WorkSafe to contain a potential "cost-blowout". • Leant credibility of WorkSafe policy of reviewing IPT requests.

Pathways to impact (2)

- Quad bike safety devices



Investment	Adoption of Research	Impact of Research
\$10,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citation of research findings by many media outlets in Australia. • Reference to research in academic/industry consensus statement on quad bike safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-ignited public debate around important workplace safety issue. • Contributed to a 'case for change' in safety standards. • Contributed to community behavioural change.

What have we learnt?

- What has worked:
 - Effectiveness vs efficiency
 - Find a common language and a way of working together
 - Use a mix of research commissioning approaches
 - Challenging partner pre-conceptions
- What has been difficult:
 - Discussions/fora that don't involve all partners
 - Maintaining transparency
 - Challenging partner pre-conceptions

Contact

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Impact Assessment Report

<http://www.iscrr.com.au/research/impact/>