

# Occupational Health Research to Inform ACC Policy and Operational Decision-making:

## Our Context and Possible Interests

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# The challenge for researchers ...

How important are the following impact factors to decision-makers?

%

- Content (What) 4
- Who 40
- Delivery (How) 56

Source: Wharton Business School, Survey of Fortune  
500 CEOs in ACC Foundations for Leadership Training Course, Catapult, 2011.

# The challenge for researchers...

Your decision-maker is typically thinking...

- Who is this person – Why should I listen to them?
- Do I understand what they are saying- Are they using my language?
- How / Why is this information useful / important to me?

# Understanding My Research Reality

## The Senior Research Advisor's Dilemma: Where to Position Agency Research? Negotiating the Co-ordinates of Research Need

### End-user: Top / up

- > Political decision-makers
- > Board
- > CEO – Snr Executive

### Technocratic Approach

- > Strict Scientific Process
  - > Research Discipline
  - > Method
- > No / little end-user input
- > Distanced from policy / operational context
- > Little / no Stakeholder ownership



### Participative Approach

- > Active end-user engagement / participation
- > Setting up alliances
- > Tendency for value driven
- > Context aware
- > Can lack independence
- > High degree of stakeholder ownership

### End-user: Operational / Delivery

- > Professional Service Provider
- > Claimants
- > Community Group



Horizontal Axis: Methodological Co-ordinate



Vertical Axis: Audience and Purpose Co-ordinate

# Context: General ACC research priorities

- Better management of scheme liability:
  - service delivery
  - purchasing strategies
  - provider performance
  - drivers of scheme / rehabilitation performance
  - levy / insurance product design and implementation
  - efficacy of injury prevention interventions
- client outcomes:
  - impact and effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation services
  - satisfaction with services

# Context: Our Key Types of Research Activity

- Mixed methods approach
  - Substantive survey programme (30-40% of all expenditure)
  - Evidence based health literature reviews to inform health purchasing and case management decisions
  - Monitoring & Evaluation to establish the merit and value of programmes
  - Quantitative data analysis  
(Delivered by a mix of internal capacity and external commissioning through preferred suppliers)

# ACC is looking for Occ Health research that is... “fit-for-purpose”

1. Aligns with Strategic direction, and importantly business group owner information needs
2. Timely (18 months to delivery is a long-time)
3. Uses methods appropriate to the problem, the context, and the available resources (cost-effective)
4. Is clear, insightful, and has practical relevance
5. Recognises the policy and operational context
6. Recognises that what constitutes evidence depends upon the presenter and the hearer
7. Delivered in modes that the audience understands and hears!

# General Occ Health future research direction

- Research that has real practical policy and operational application to ACC
- Compliments other partner agencies research activities
- ACC's IP Strategic approach is undergoing review and development
  - the outcome will influence further activity
- ACC has a long history of investing in Occ Health Research



# Examples of possible ACC Occ Health research interest:

## Work that

- Develops practical Occ Health Disease
  - definitions
  - surveillance methods and measures
- Focuses upon settings / activities that are “unique” and important to New Zealand and the liability of the Scheme

## Examples of possible ACC Occ Health research interest...

- Trials of new monitoring technology such as VEM to monitor and understand :
  - real world workplace exposures and work practices
  - test effectiveness of a range of interventions
  - promote and reward safe workplace practices through financial incentives
  - understand impact of work activities on public exposure

# Examples possible ACC Occ Health research interest

Work aimed at

- better understanding the relationships between occ health exposures and other health indices
- Health co morbidity effects on injury treatment and rehabilitation utilisation and early return to work
- Aging workforce effects on scheme liability