

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AIC 2016: #121

1. Title:

The potential of knowledge brokering intermediary organisations in increasing social science research utilisation: three case studies from Australia

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3. Key words:

Case studies, research-focused intermediary organisations, knowledge brokering; investigation

4. Abstract text:

a. Background and aims

Knowledge brokering is increasingly being considered as a promising strategy for mobilizing knowledge between research producers and research users, addressing the much cited 'gap' that is said to exist between the two groups hindering research utilisation.

Much of the focus in the literature to date is on knowledge brokering activities carried out by individuals, but the dependence of these knowledge brokering activities on the institutional context in which these individuals operate has largely been ignored in the literature. Institutional forms of knowledge brokering are equally, if not more, important in understanding how knowledge can be effectively transferred between knowledge producers and users.

The research 'maps the territory' of institutions in Australia that operate, to some extent, in a knowledge brokering capacity, and highlights one type of knowledge brokering organisation - research-focused intermediary organisations.

b. Methods

This paper presents a typology of organisations that operate in a knowledge brokering capacity in Australia. Three case studies of research-focused intermediary organisations which operate in a knowledge brokering capacity within key public policy areas in Australia are presented.

c. Results

Institutional knowledge brokering efforts offer significant solutions to the research-policy divide. Research-focused intermediary organisations show significant potential as one form of knowledge brokering institution.

d. Conclusion

The overview of the varying types of institutional knowledge brokering activity confirms its diversity, using Australian examples, and provides a strong foundation for further empirical work on institutional forms of knowledge brokering. Research-focused intermediary organisations show significant potential in achieving long term and sustained use of research in policy making.