

# Evidence to action: Exploring knowledge mobilisation

1 May 2025



National Disability  
Research Partnership



## Acknowledgement of Country

The NDRP acknowledges the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia. The peoples on whose land we live and work, have lived on and cared for Country for thousands of generations, and this land has never been ceded. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.

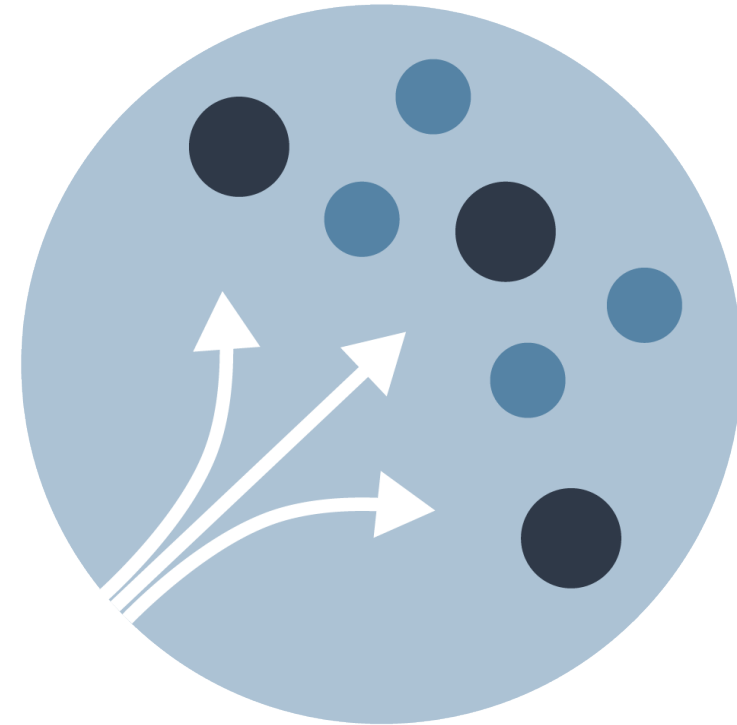
# Agenda

- Welcome, scene setting and keynote from Professor Erin Wilson
- SHUT OUT: Then and Now – Reflecting on the impact of Australia's foundational disability report
- Interactive session: overcoming barriers and advancing best practice
- Closing reflections and next steps

# Mobilise evidence for action

## Objectives:

- Improve the accessibility and availability of evidence related to disability
- Strengthen capacity for the use of evidence in policy and practice.



# Knowledge

- evidence from academic and community-based research,
- information, insights and story held by people and communities because of their lived, cultural, service and/or systems experience, and
- expertise from practice.



# Knowledge mobilisation



Knowledge mobilisation is an end-to-end process and mindset across all the stages of research from conception, undertaking research to mobilising for action.



Knowledge mobilisation means taking a collaborative, relational approach to exchanging and sense-making of knowledge in useful and accessible ways to co-design and co-produce research.



Knowledge mobilisation also means ensuring that research findings are widely accessible and usable and there is a meaningful exchange and sense making between people with disability, their organisations and policy makers about how the findings should be used to make impact.

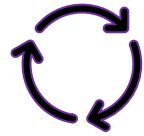


# Professor Erin Wilson



National Disability  
Research Partnership

# What do we mean by 'knowledge mobilisation'?



= Making use of knowledge, moving knowledge into action

Some common knowledge products and mobilisation practices:

- Reports
- Websites
- Training
- Guides
- Tools and methods
- Webinars
- Submissions to government



National Disability  
Research Partnership



# The 'gap'

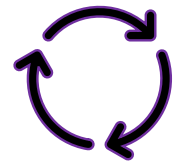
Critical problem is divide or gap between **knowledge making** and **knowledge use**



Knowledge product

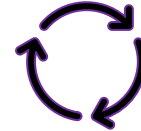


Knowledge users

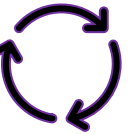


# The knowledge journey

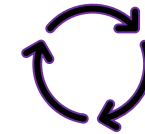
Start: What is the question we want answered?



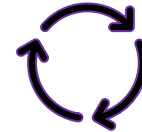
Next: What do we already know about this? What answers does the existing available knowledge give us?



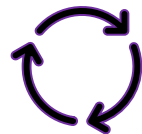
Next: What else do we need to know? (and what is the best way to find out?)



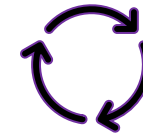
Next: Investigate (together) – What are we learning?



Next: What have we learned?



Next: What does it mean we do? (How do we use knowledge?)



**KNOWLEDGE MOBILISATION TIP 1:** From the beginning, understand how you want to use the knowledge (and who will use it)



# Knowledge mobilisation

## The what, who and when

Key question: What will this knowledge be used to do/ How will it be used?

- Who will use it?
- When will they use it?

The answers to these questions greatly influences the type of knowledge products and processes.



# What will this knowledge be used to do?

...



Change or inform practice



Change or inform policy



Gain funding / influence investment / justify investment



Inform program or service design and delivery



Identify or explain a need or problem



Provide a solution to a problem

...



National Disability Research Partnership

# Who will use this knowledge?

## How used

- Change or inform practice
- Change or inform policy
- Gain funding / influence investment / justify investment
- Inform program or service design and delivery
- Identify or explain a need or problem
- Provide a solution to a problem

## Who will use it

Many users (and maybe more than one user group):

- Practitioners/service deliverers
- Policy makers
- Funders
- Organisational decision makers
- Advocates
- Service users

Different stakeholders interact with knowledge in different ways



# When will they use this knowledge?

## How used

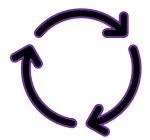
- Change or inform practice
- Change or inform policy
- Gain funding / influence investment / justify investment
- Inform program or service design and delivery
- Identify or explain a need or problem
- Provide a solution to a problem

## When used

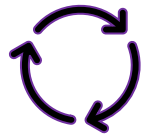
- Once a final 'answer' has been identified
- At a point in time
- At repeated time points
- Continuously
- Start to apply immediately



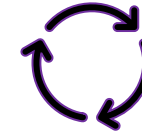
# An example: WISE-Ability model



Start with a model  
+  
A Problem (ADE)



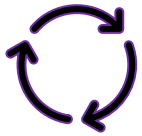
Use the model to  
work with ADE staff  
to learn/think about  
ADE context



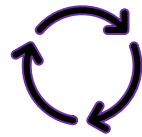
Use model to drive  
new practice. Collect  
data about this

Model helps staff see ADE in  
new ways, helps researchers see  
ADE's in new ways

Learning by testing, all parties  
seeing the data and forming  
new knowledge



Use the data to build  
a new model for ADE  
organisations



Develop:  
• A report  
• A training guide

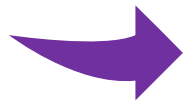
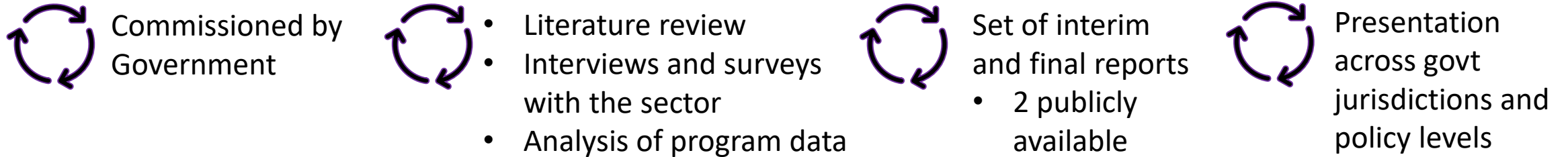
Over time, knowledge mobilisation is:

- Influences investment in ADE transitions (funders)
- More training is built and rolled out – influences practice (service providers/practitioners)
- ADEs develop new pathways to open employment (organisations)



National Disability  
Research Partnership

# An example: Review of ILC



## Regular meetings with Department personnel

- Bringing sector voice in early
- Sharing insights along the way
- Sharing initial findings (rapid results)

CRITICAL: Sharing the logic that was emerging



KNOWLEDGE MOBILISATION TIP 2: The process of knowledge creation can also be a mechanism of knowledge mobilisation



National Disability  
Research Partnership



# Barriers to effective knowledge mobilisation

1. We don't think about how the knowledge will be used
2. There is no intention to use the knowledge
3. Over-emphasis on *product* and none on *process*
4. The right 'who' is missing
5. Lack of attention to timeframe (i.e. how long will it take for knowledge to be used/embedded?)
6. Knowledge mobilisation is not costed or funded
7. A lack of understanding or evidence about the design of effective knowledge mobilisation

# What are the missing ingredients in effective knowledge mobilisation?

- Intentionality (of all parties)
- Effective (early) design of knowledge mobilisation
  - Including engaging target knowledge users
- Access to evidence about knowledge mobilisation design
  - for different audiences and purposes
- Sufficient resources (and timeframes) for mobilisation
- Pragmatism
  - what is the most important thing to do
  - what can we do well?



**Madeleine Clarke**

**Associate Professor Lorna Hallahan**

**Professor Kirsten D. Swan OAM**



National Disability  
Research Partnership

# SHUT OUT

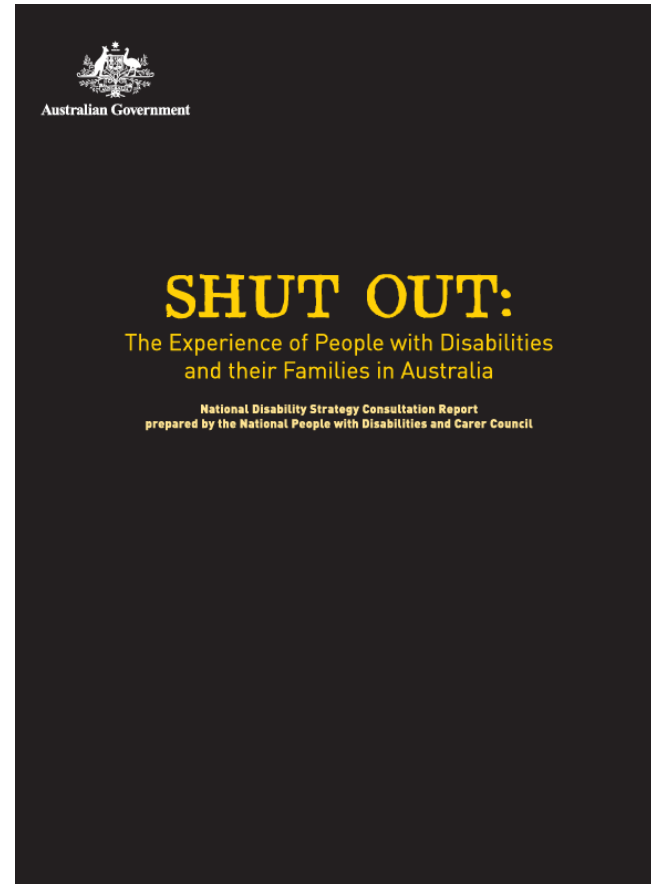
*Shut out: the experience of people with disabilities and their families in Australia*

National Disability Strategy Consultation Report  
prepared by the National People with Disabilities and  
Carer Council

11 Aug 2009, Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (Australia),  
Government of Australia.

Link: <https://apo.org.au/node/18454>

Easy Read:  
[https://www.ideas.org.au/uploads/resources/1429/nds\\_report\\_easy\\_english.pdf](https://www.ideas.org.au/uploads/resources/1429/nds_report_easy_english.pdf)



National Disability  
Research Partnership

# Session 3 Break-out rooms



National Disability  
Research Partnership

# Topics and options



Research-policy partnerships



Sharing research in accessible ways



Community-led advocacy



Cross-sector collaboration



Overcoming barriers to knowledge mobilisation



Breakout room



Zoom whiteboard -

<https://zoom.us/wb/doc/fSUVDbFtTH6Aw3g1Buisxw>



Chat function



Survey -

<https://zoom.us/survey/Pd5QvhnR0EwjW11FenyUpsCXQ6bf5P5HYmSlbrTDp7ctCa-21pk.abk27LI2NgzcV-IP/view?id=0apoOK9ZRdqAfUim-hVFEw#/sharePreview>



National Disability Research Partnership

# Zoom whiteboard

Zoom whiteboard interface for NDRP ETA 1 May 2025. The interface includes a top navigation bar with a back arrow, the meeting title "NDRP ETA 1 May 2025", a "Comment only" dropdown menu, and icons for chat, a sticky note, and a menu. A timer in the top right corner shows 24 minutes remaining.

## Your voice matters - share your thoughts here

If you're not joining a breakout room, you can still add your ideas here. Type or drag a sticky note into any section that speaks to you. Share what matters most to you!

Time 30 mins

Topic	? Prompt
1. Research-Policy Partnerships	What helps or gets in the way of researchers and policymakers working together?
2. Accessible Research Sharing	What would make research easier to understand and use in your life or work?
3. Community-led Advocacy	How can research support people with disability to push for change?
4. Cross-sector Collaboration	What would help different sectors (like government, services, community) work better together?
5. Overcoming Barriers	What are the big challenges and ideas to make sure research is actually used?

Drag and drop sticky notes

Comment



# Wrap up



National Disability  
Research Partnership



# How to engage with the NDRP



Email: [info@ndrp.org.au](mailto:info@ndrp.org.au)



Phone: 03 9000 3813



Subscribe to our newsletter at [www.ndrp.org.au](http://www.ndrp.org.au) for updates



Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn

