

Integrating the knowledge into action framework with a project management model to drive service improvement initiatives

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Background

There is an increasing focus on the need to integrate research evidence into clinical practice. The Canadian Institute of Research has described the process of knowledge translation in words, and in the cyclical Knowledge into Action Framework. While this process integrates principles of evidence-based practice with quality improvement and implementation science approaches, it does require local adaptation for sustained utilisation.

Method

This project aimed to describe the process of embedding knowledge translation principles into service improvement initiatives within Gold Coast Health through the development of an integrated model. Building upon the existing project management model utilised within Gold Coast Health, the Allied Health Clinical Governance, Education and Research Unit mapped and integrated key steps of project management with the knowledge into action framework. It was anticipated that this integrated model would facilitate the implementation of service improvement that is informed by the best quality research evidence and practice. Tools and resources were developed to introduce and facilitate clinical teams to utilise this new model, and consultation and support was provided by the Allied Health Workforce Development Officers and Allied Health Research Fellow. Preliminary evaluation of the model and associated tools was undertaken during the implementation of a local allied health service improvement project which used the integrated model.

Results

The integrated model will be presented and described in relation to the adaptations of the knowledge into action framework that were required to be undertaken to suit the needs of the local context. Lessons learnt and overall useability and application of the integrated model in the context of a service improvement case study will be presented.

Discussion

An integrated model which includes the knowledge into action framework and project management principles may be a potentially effective means for embedding knowledge translation principles into service improvement initiatives.