The Audit of Disability Research in Australia: What does it tell us?

Dr Ron Chalmers
Director General, Disability Services Commission
National Disability Research & Development Agenda

1. Australian disability demographic profile and trends information
2. Disability related social and economic inclusion research
3. Research which aims to improve service delivery and support options
4. Analysis of factors that support sector sustainability
5. Research on the profile, experiences and issues affecting diverse and/or disadvantaged groups of people with disability
Audit of Disability Research in Australia

Centre for Disability Research and Policy
The University of Sydney
“The current disability research base is not ‘fit for purpose’ to the disability reform agenda and is fragmented and diversified across topics and study designs. There is not a critical mass of research on topics of priority to the National Disability Strategy, the National Disability Research and Development Agenda and the NDIS. Significant strategic and systematic investment in Australian disability research relevant to the national policy context is urgently needed to advance research informed policy in Australia.”

Report of Audit of Disability Research in Australia
Professor Gwennyth Llewellyn, Centre for Disability Research and Policy, University of Sydney, August 2014
Disability research is not easily accessible.

Much disability focused research is stand-alone, one-off studies in topics of researcher or organisational interest.

There is no broad strategic intent in the disability research.

Concentration of disability research in health related areas.

Limited research in inclusion, rights protection, justice, economic security and personal/community support.

There is limited research that can be used to inform the reform agenda.

There is limited co-produced research.

Limited research on issues affecting diverse or disadvantaged groups.

Much of the research that has been done essentially describe the ‘problem’.

There are insufficient longitudinal studies that follow people over time.
National Disability Strategy – 6 intended outcomes

1. Inclusive and accessible communities
2. Rights protection, justice and legislation
3. Economic security
4. Personal and community support
5. Learning and skills
6. Health and wellbeing
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Questions?