

Project Transform: Supporting Australian guideline developers to access and use research evidence

Clinical guidelines are vital to the health of Australians. Project Transform is working with Australian guideline developers to make creating evidence-based guidelines easier and more efficient.

Purpose

Project Transform aims to significantly reduce the time and resources required to produce systematic reviews and the health guidelines they support, while maintaining rigour and reliability.

Our aim is to make it easier and more efficient to find, do and use systematic reviews to support evidence-based clinical guidelines.

Background

Many organisations in Australia undertake and use systematic reviews to inform development of clinical guidelines. This process is critical to translating the results of research into evidence-informed decision making, clinical practice and the best possible outcomes for patients. It is essential that this process is efficient and cost effective.

Systematic reviews are the ‘gold-standard’ approach for synthesising research to guide decision-making in health. However, the substantial resources required to produce systematic reviews limit their feasibility and availability for clinical guideline development.

Funded by Cochrane and NHMRC, Project Transform is working to develop new tools and systems that will substantially reduce the time and resources required to undertake reviews. Our team is working on text mining, machine learning and crowd sourcing systems to improve the efficiency of search, screening and data extraction. We are also investigating services such as automated evidence delivery services that can provide easy access to new, relevant evidence.

What we are doing

The project is funded from 2016 – 2018 and has three phases: design, build and test.

In the design phase (2016) we will be working with guideline developers to understand their evidence needs and how we can help provide easy access to the kinds of tools and services they want.

In the build phase (2017) we will create a system to allow guideline developers access to tools that can make their work easier; like automated search, crowd sourced screening and evidence feeds.

In the test phase (2018) we will explore the impact of these tools, and how best to sustain and evolve.

We would love you to join us!

If you would like to join the project, or find out more, please contact Tari Turner (tari.turner@monash.edu) or Steve McDonald (steve.mcdonald@monash.edu).