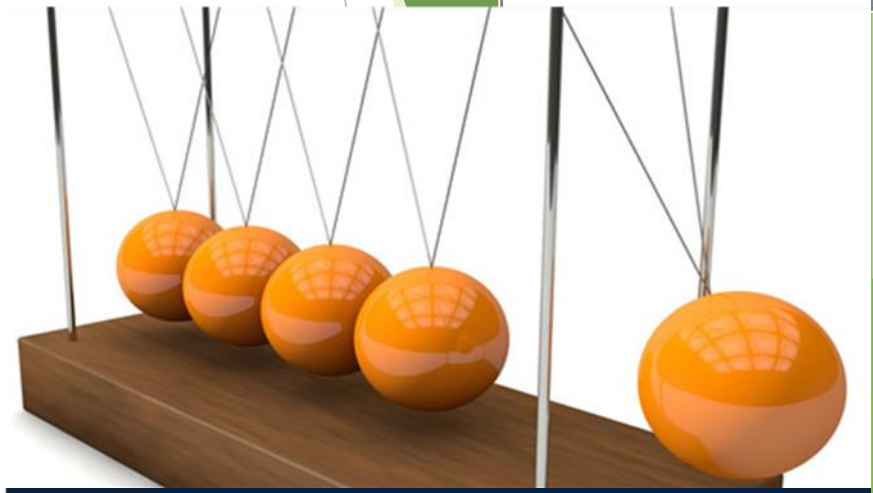
NHMRC CENTRE OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE
Stroke Rehabilitation and Brain Recovery

STROKE 2018
Bridging the Continuum
International Convention Centre, Sydney
7–10 August 2018

How do you prove your research was impactful?



Shanthi Ramanathan
Andrew Searles

9 August 2018

In partnership with our community

HMRI Hunter Medical Research Institute

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

NSW GOVERNMENT Health
Hunter New England Local Health District

Research Impact is serious business

HMRI
Hunter Medical Research Institute

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NSW GOVERNMENT Health
Hunter New England Local Health District

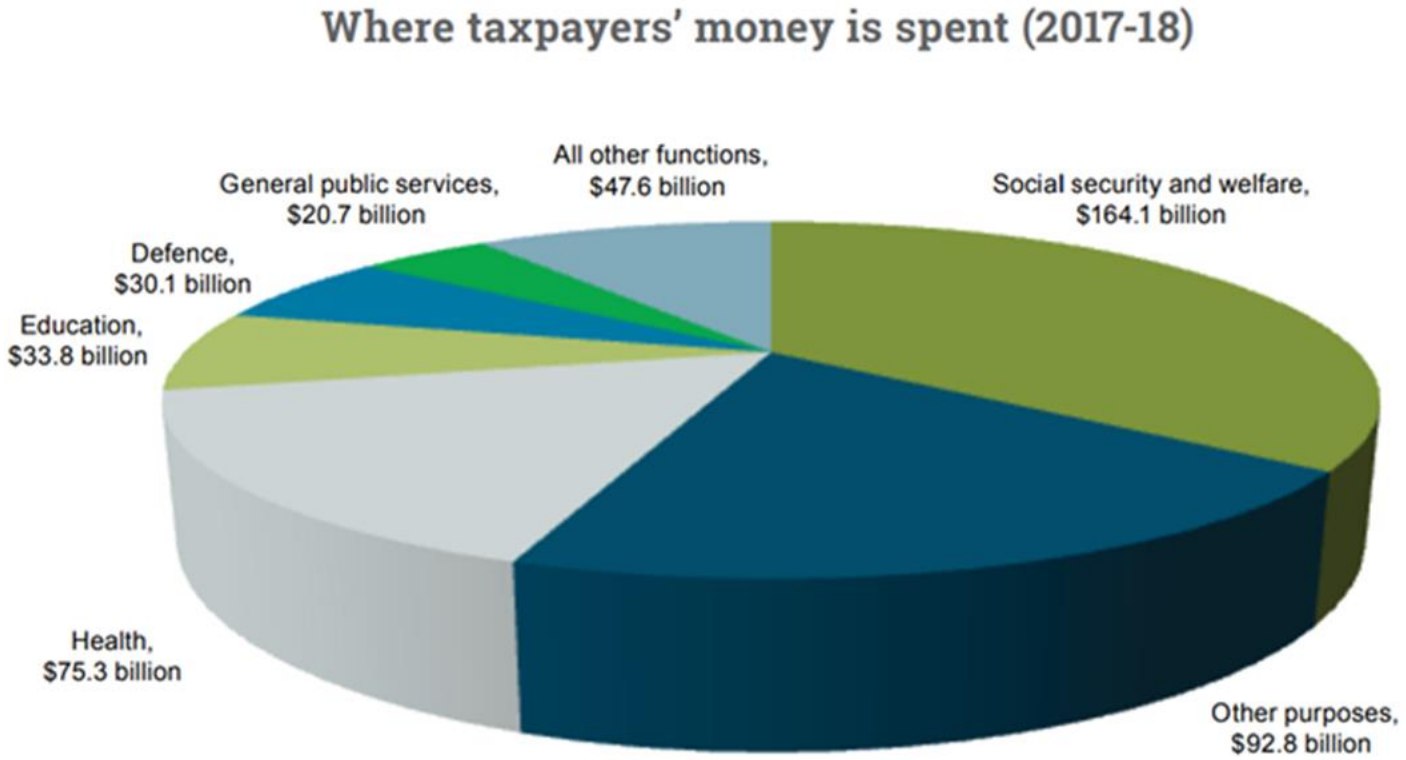
What do we mean by research impact ?

"Research impact is the **demonstrable contribution** that research makes to the society, economy, environment and culture **beyond academic research**"

(Australian Research Council, 2017)

But the pathway to impact is not always clear

So why do we need to prove it ?



Source: Australian Government – Federal Budget

So why do we need to prove it ?

- $5.9 billion HMR in Australia per year
- 18% of all Australian R&D is spent on HMR
- 8% of all spending on health is spent on HMR
- > 50% of all Australian HMR is undertaken in the higher education sector
- 85% of research investment is wasted (Chalmers and Glasziou)

Source: https://researchaustralia.org/australian-research-facts/

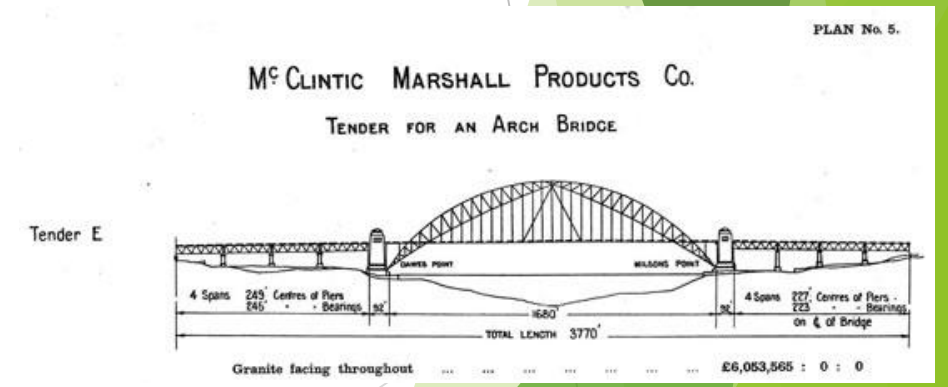
So why do we need to prove it ?

- Policy expectation – more for less
- Funding is evolving – from outputs to impacts
- Evidence suggests current benefits from HMR are suboptimal

So HOW do we ensure our research is impactful?

TIP 1 Plan Upfront

Think about and plan for what you want to achieve **UPFRONT**. A key to maximising the impact of research is to keep this goal in mind throughout the research process; to view it as an ongoing activity, not something tacked on at the end.


PLAN No. 5.

Mc CLINTIC MARSHALL PRODUCTS Co.

TENDER FOR AN ARCH BRIDGE

Tender E

4 Spans 245' Centres of Piers 245' - Bearings 92'

1680'

92'

4 Spans 227' Centres of Piers 223' - Bearings on ℄ of Bridge

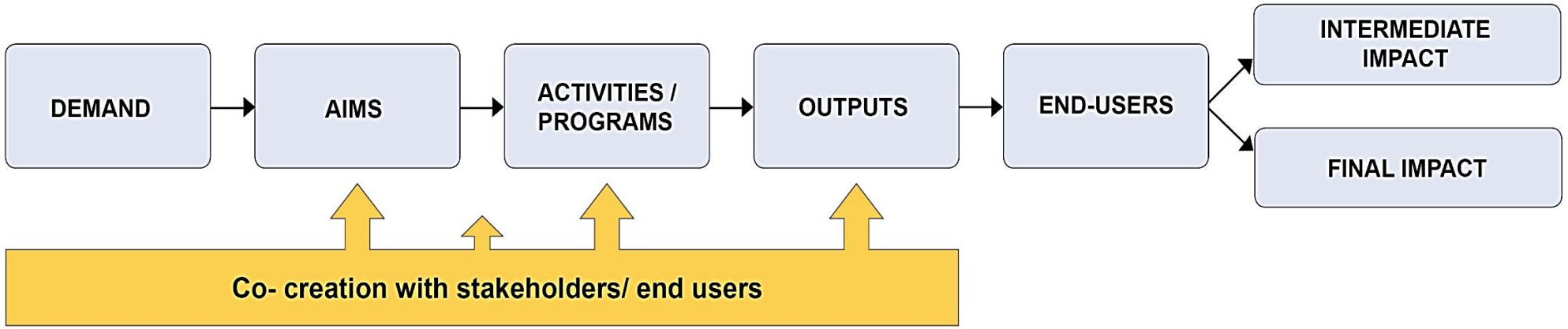
TOTAL LENGTH 3770'

Granite facing throughout ... ... £6,053,565 : 0 : 0

TIP 2 Use a Program Logic

Use a **Program Logic template** to plot the aims, activities, outputs, end-users and intended impacts of your research. This blueprint can be modified throughout the life of your research

Program Logic template



Ramanathan *et al*. Implementing a protocol for a research impact assessment. HRPS 2018; 16(1):71.

TIP 3 Use robust study designs

Undertaking an impact assessment is NOT an excuse/reason to throw out **rigorous and scientifically-based study designs.**

Examples: RCTs (randomisation and double-blind) case-control, step-wedged, longitudinal

TIP 4 Engage end-users effectively

End-users can help to provide a clear and effective direction for your research, assist with stakeholder engagement and dissemination. Be clear about the perspective you want them to maintain.

TIP 5 Keep records all the way through

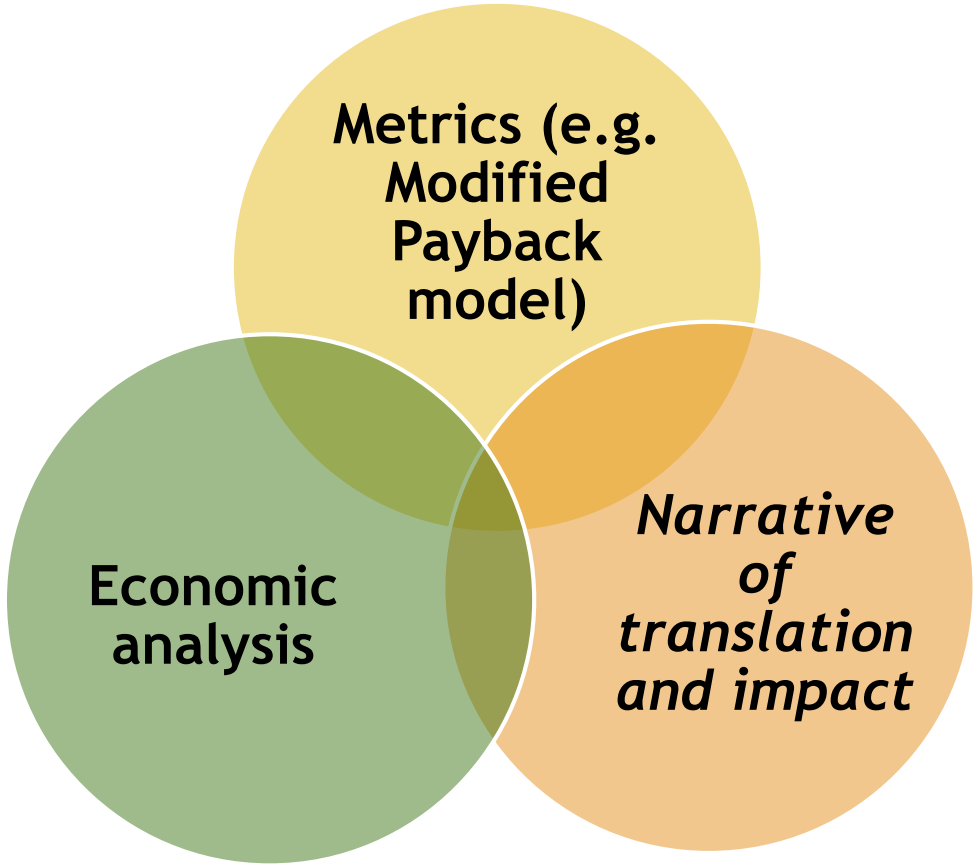
Keep records of impact during the research process.
The recording tool should be simple like a spreadsheet

Keep track of:

- contacts/reach
- outputs
- activities
- costs
- journey

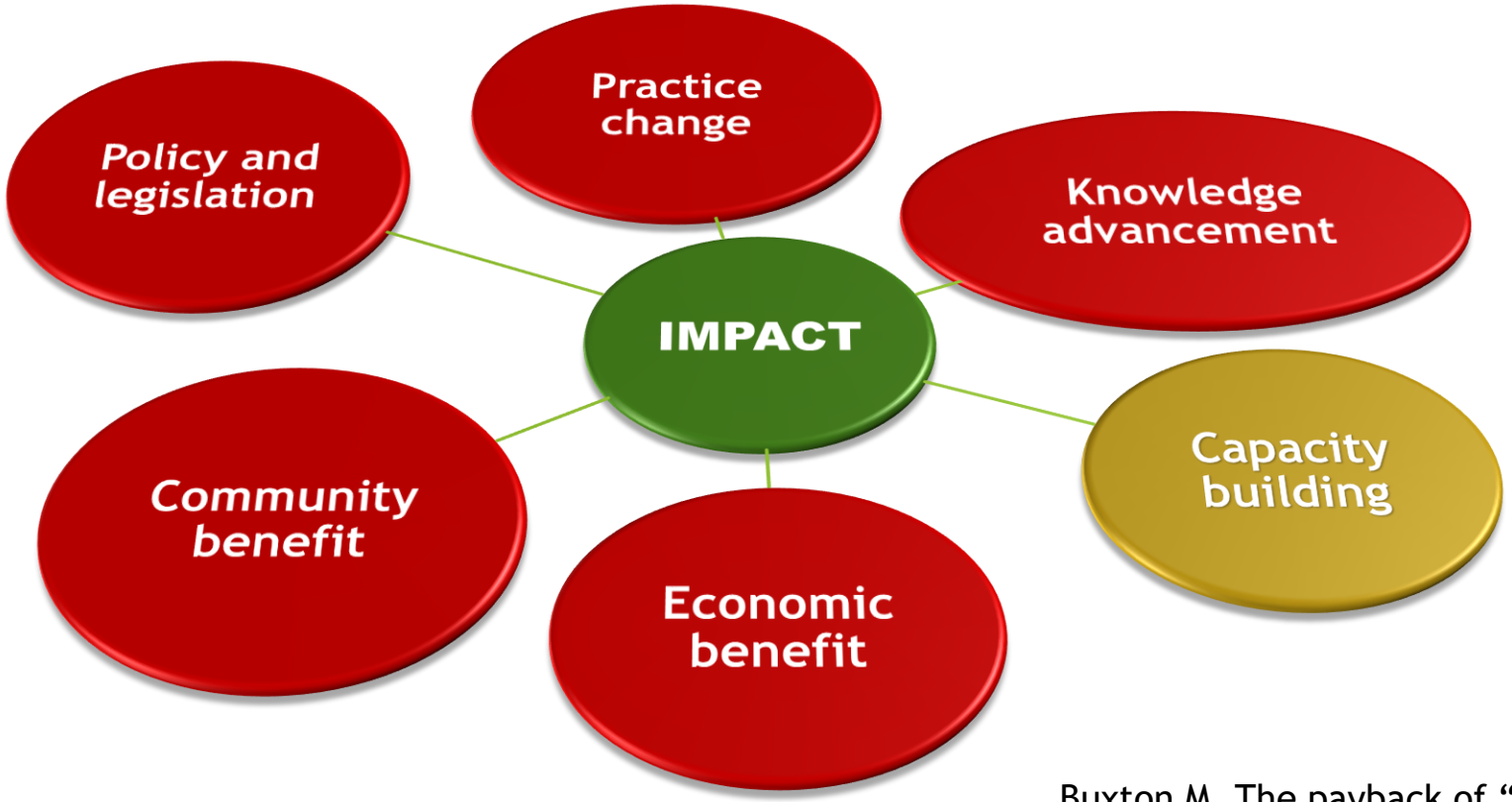
Doing it retrospectively is **difficult and costly.**

FAIT Framework to Assess the Impact of Translational health research



Searles A *et al*. An Approach to Measuring and Encouraging Research Translation and Research Impact. HRPS 2016; 14(60).

Payback Domains



Buxton M. The payback of "payback": challenges in assessing research impact. Res Eval. 2011;20:259-60.

Knowledge advancement

Metric	Indicator
Published articles	No. views, No. downloads, direct contacts
Citations	No. of citations
% published in stroke rehab	X% (X/all papers published in your field)
Presentations/Posters	No. of attendees, direct contact
Social media	No. of retweets, followers
Resources	No. of templates, protocols, manuals, checklists, tests
Grants and consultancies	No leveraged your data or processes

Capacity building

Metric	Indicator
Infrastructure	Equipment, Registries, Champions
Training	No. of staff/researchers trained
PhDs	No. completed
Fellowships	No. of fellowships leveraging your research
First authorship	No. of different researchers/students
Consumers	No. consulted, No. recruited as part of team

Practice change

Metric	Indicator
Longer physical therapy sessions	Proportion receiving more than 90 minutes of physical therapy per day in rehab.
Support after discharge	No. of patients receiving follow-up care, or longer period for follow-up
Telehealth	No. of centres using telehealth for acute stroke care
Improved detection using stroke helmet	No. of patients being treated with stroke helmet

Community benefit

Metric	Indicator
Improved health outcomes	Reduction in the number of years lost due to ill-health, disability or early death (DALYs)
Improved mobility	Statistically significant Improvement
Patient satisfaction	Statistically significant improvement
Improved Quality of Life	Statistically significant Improvement

Policy and legislation

Metric	Indicator
Parliamentary submissions	No. of specific parliamentary submissions
Analysis and Policy Observatory	No. of downloads
Stroke Guidelines	No. of citations in Guidelines
Local policies	No. of local policy changes
Committee representation	No. represented on guideline committees

Economic benefit

Metric	Indicator
Minimising wasteful treatment	$$ saved as a result of targeted therapy
Quicker return to work	Productivity gains
Reduced length of stay	Cost savings from shorter hospitalisations
Reduced disability	Savings from ongoing care
Increased lifetime earnings from PhDs	Est. $82,874 pp

Buxton M, Hanney S, Jones T. Estimating the economic value to societies of the impact of health research: a critical review. Bull WHO. 2004;82(10):733-9

Thank you

If you have any questions or are looking for resources in this field please contact:

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