

Supporting Policy In health with Research: an Intervention Trial (SPIRIT) - Protocol and early findings

Presenter: Anna Williamson, The Sax Institute, New South Wales

Authors: The CIPHER Investigators

Many governments internationally have committed to better use of evidence from research in policy. Although many programs are directed at assisting agencies to better use research, there have been few tests of the effectiveness of such programs. This paper describes the protocol and early findings from SPIRIT (Supporting Policy In Health with Research: an Intervention Trial), a stepped wedge cluster randomised trial designed to test the effectiveness of a multifaceted program to build organisational capacity for the use of research evidence in policy and program development. The primary aim is to determine whether SPIRIT results in an increase in the extent to which research and research expertise is sought, appraised, generated and used in the development of specific policy products produced by health policy agencies.