

Location of presentation

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## Policy and Research Relationships from a Government perspective

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## Combined Snapshot – Government Departments Overview

- To provide some idea of governments current research/policy/program activity
- Identify the variety of pathways travelled that drive government program outcomes
- How do we expect research to assist?



## CURRENT PERSPECTIVES

- Researchers – we need money, projects, and would like to influence
- Policy makers – we need research that we understand and works for us
- Practitioners – we are doing really innovative great things that seem to make a difference, but nobody really knows why or how.



## ENGAGEMENT-COMMUNICATION



- Three aspects – three different languages
- Communication issues – words; meaning; defining context; presenting to target audiences
- Promote language debate to agree on ageing population terminology



## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- Research is commissioned in different ways for different purposes.
- Drivers of government policy, program development generally means tight timeframes.
- New program ideas are based on evidence somewhere, often overseas or other states/territories.



## EVIDENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY

- What does evidence based research mean in practice for govt. and researchers?
  - Rational/knowledge driven
  - Problem solving
  - Interactive
  - Enlightenment



## WHEN WE USE RESEARCH AND WHERE WE FIND IT?

- When?
  - Long and short
- Where?
  - Overseas
  - Building local specificity



## OFFICE OF SENIOR VICTORIANS – RESEARCH GAPS AND ISSUES

- Sociology of structural ageing
- Economics of retirement and incomes policy
- Urban planning/mobility/community strength
- Discrimination/abuse prevention
- Need for a 'growing older program' in Aust./Vic



## NEED FOR VICTORIAN BASED RESEARCH



- Little Victorian based research available on needs of older people or on the effectiveness of interventions
- Lack of public appetite for research
- Little budget for research within Government
- Researchers need to engage at all levels
- Researchers need to better understand the broad policy environment



## TIMELINESS OF RESEARCH

- Inherent miss-match between long time frames of researchers and short times frames of policy makers
- Policy making too often a reactive process
- Policy makers need to think about how to engage researchers at short notice
- Researchers could be more strategic and identify emerging policy issues



## DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE



- Little understanding of the transport needs of older people
- Lack of understanding in the community of the importance of mobility for older people (especially pedestrian issues)
- Attention concentrates on provision of services: access/mobility is often overlooked
- Research needs to be presented clearly and in the knowledge of how government works



## CONCLUSIONS

- Room for improvement from all parties
- Need to strengthen engagement between policy makers and researchers
- Research needs to be:
  - Timely; relevant; accurate; and presented in a form appropriate to providing policy advice

