



CRE-DH

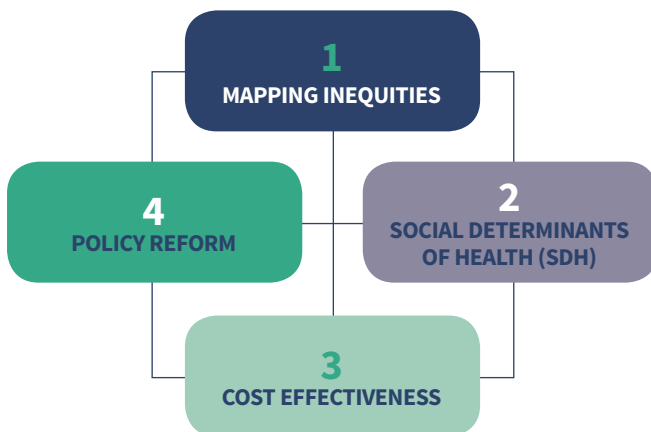
Centre of Research
Excellence in
Disability and Health

Policy Lab Delphi Study Explainer

What is the Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health?

The Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health (CRE-DH) is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and is comprised of academics from 5 leading universities as well as an Advisory Group of stakeholders from the disability and health sectors. The aim of the CRE-DH is to identify cost-effective policies that improve the health of working-age people with disabilities in Australia. There are 4 work programs in the CRE-DH which work together to create a multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral exchange of knowledge in order to develop the best policy reform options.

Work programs of the CRE-DH



What is the Policy Lab?

The Policy Lab is the name we have given to the group of experts who are participating in our 4 year Delphi Study. Policy Lab Members are expert stakeholders in disability and health policy and come from a wide range of sectors (government and non-government organisations, statutory bodies, the disability service sector, and consumer representative organisations) and geographical locations throughout Australia. The Policy Lab Delphi Study is part of Work Program 4.

What is a Delphi Study?

The Delphi technique is a widely used methodology for achieving consensus of opinion among a group of anonymous experts. The technique uses an iterative process whereby a series of interviews or surveys are used to gather information from the expert group until a 'group' consensus is reached. Feedback is provided to the group after each round of interviews or surveys. Questions are designed to centre on problems, forecasts, opportunities, and solutions. Each iterative round of questions is revised based on the data collected in previous rounds.

Delphi studies have a number of advantages:

- Help overcome a dominant single viewpoint dominating policy discussions
- Allows stakeholders to hear views/ideas from different sectors/settings & gain information on what might be needed on the policy agenda
- Helps generate new ideas and increases depth of understanding
- Encourages individuals to consider issues over time & examine their opinions, motivations, and behaviours which can potentially shift viewpoints and facilitate learning

How does the Policy Lab Delphi Study work?

Each year over four years we are conducting 2 rounds of data collection with Policy Lab Members:

- One in person/phone interview where we ask open ended questions
- One short online survey with short answer questions

After each round of data collection Policy Lab Members receive a feedback document which summarises what the group has said in that particular round. Over each round of data collection the types of questions being asked will be based on what Policy Lab Members have told us in the previous rounds.

What are we trying to find out from the Policy Lab Delphi Study?

The overall aim of the CRE-DH is to identify cost-effective and implementable policy options which will improve the health of working-age Australians with disability. The CRE-DH has a social determinants of health focus for policy reform options. The social determinants of health broadly refer to factors outside the health system that impact health and health inequalities across the population. The evidence base on the social determinants of health demonstrates social factors such as education, employment, housing and transport can have a greater impact on health than healthcare.

The Policy Lab is being asked questions around the social determinants of health for people with disability. Over the course of the Delphi study we ask questions which are designed to find out:

- What are the most important social determinants of health for people with disability?
- What are the most important social determinants of health to target for policy reform?
- What are the best policy reform options to address the most important social determinants of health?
- How is data being developed and used around social determinants of health for people with disability?

What will the outcomes of the Policy Lab Delphi Study be?

The policy reform ideas generated by the Policy Lab will help guide the work being done in the other work programs such as developing indicators to map selected social determinants over time and geographical locations, and using health economics to model the cost effectiveness of proposed policy reform options.

The ideas from the Policy Lab will thus be instrumental in achieving the overall aim of the CRE-DH in determining what the best policy options are to improve the health of Australians with disability.

One of the key outputs at the end of the Delphi Study will be a report which synthesises the findings across all data collection rounds which will articulate the key policy priorities and ideas generated from the contribution of the Policy Lab Members.

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