

About eviDent

Information Sheet No: EI002

Issue Date: March 2011

Context

1. eviDent Dental Practice Based Research Network (DPBRN) is an initiative of the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch Inc (ADAVB) and the Oral Health Cooperative Research Centre based at the Melbourne Dental School.
2. The ADAVB is an association of dentists committed to advancing the art, science and ethics of dentistry, the care of the oral health of all Victorians, and the professional lives of its members.
3. The Oral Health CRC combines multidisciplinary researchers with manufacturers and global marketing experience to address the substantial economic and social burden of oral diseases and disorders.
4. eviDent aims to encourage relationships between practitioners and academic researchers. By building research capacity to produce and use evidence, eviDent facilitates and supports dental practices to produce and disseminate evidence which can translate into practice and inform policy.
5. eviDent is committed to addressing issues of importance and relevance to ADAVB members, industry and research institutions.

Research Priorities

6. eviDent identifies and targets research topics which are relevant to practitioners and policy makers. The primary objective of each study is to strengthen the knowledge base for clinical decision-making and policy setting. This is accomplished by testing and evaluating the effectiveness of strategies for the prevention and management of oral diseases and conditions.
7. Research topics are also submitted for consideration by eviDent members, dental practitioners and the public.
8. eviDent projects will develop evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for use by practitioners, funding agencies, patients and others.
9. Projects will address (where applicable) the 'Major Health Issues' as defined by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council¹, and seek to raise the profile and priority rating of oral health research on a national basis.
10. For information about current and completed projects go to www.evident.net.au.

¹ http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/publications/synopses/nhmrc_strategic_plan_2010-2012_web.pdf

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Interdisciplinary Projects

11. Stakeholders in projects provide a unique mix of dental public health, health policy, clinical dentistry and epidemiology expertise to the eviDent program, as well as specialised expertise in qualitative and quantitative research methods and the management of large datasets.
12. eviDent research will lead directly to improved treatment outcomes for patients, and address the connection between oral and general health.
13. eviDent's support for interdisciplinary and practice-based projects is in line with the National Health and Medical Research Council's 2010 – 2012 Strategic Plan which notes, 'there is an increasing emphasis on translational research, on multidisciplinary approaches and on multi-national research collaborations'².

Capacity Building

14. eviDent encourages practitioners and researchers/ academics to work together.
15. eviDent will train practitioner members in research skills and engage them in activities and projects within their own practices that will improve the evidence base for dental care.
16. eviDent requires that all Associate (Practitioner) Investigators complete training which covers: Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, Good Clinical Practice, human research ethics (including gaining approval, using Plain Language Statements and Consent Forms), informed consent, confidentiality, and data collection and management. eviDent will also provide an additional in-depth voluntary training component covering more advanced research skills.

Dissemination of findings

17. eviDent supports and requires the dissemination of its research findings to eviDent members, the dental profession, policy makers and patients.
18. eviDent will disseminate project findings in various ways, including its website, publications (newsletter and journal articles), peer review activities, study groups and presentations.

Research Funding

19. eviDent advocates for increased government funding for oral health research to reflect the economic and social burden of oral diseases.

² National Health and Medical Research Council 2010 – 2012 Strategic Plan, Australian Government 2010, p2