

## Evaluation of eviDent

<b>Project No:</b>	001	<b>Commencement Date:</b>	November 2011
<b>Chief Investigator A:</b>	Dr Denise Bailey	<b>Completion Date:</b>	TBA
<b>Associate Investigators:</b>	Dr Mary Miller Dr Tony Robertson	<b>Status:</b>	Active
<b>Research Collaborator:</b>	Ms Meaghan Quinn		
<b>Research Assistants:</b>	Ms Karen Escobar, Ms Wendy Thomson		
<b>Support:</b>	ADAVB & Oral Health CRC		

### Introduction

The evaluation of the eviDent dental practice based network and its activities is an essential and integral part of eviDent. A priority area for evaluation of practitioner investigator perceptions of participation in the eviDent network has been identified. Defining the benefits for practitioner participation in the eviDent network will help the network devise strategies to maximise those benefits and make future research protocol development more receptive to practitioner investigators.

### Aims

The evaluation of eviDent project is under development, but aims to evaluate the eviDent network from the perspectives of practitioners, academics and the network infrastructure. The objectives of the evaluation are to:

- clarify eviDent's important areas for evaluation;
- select the appropriate design of evaluation for those areas; and
- formulate a strategy for gathering the evidence needed and using the evaluation findings.

### Rationale

Evaluation is the systematic collection of information about the activities, characteristics and outcomes of a program or in this case, network, to make judgments about the network, improve network effectiveness, and/or inform decisions about future network development.

### Methodology

Following workshops, focus groups and consultation with The University of Melbourne's Centre for Program Evaluation, eviDent's logic model has been developed and this will set the stage for determining the best evaluation focus and design. It is anticipated that a combination of process (measuring actual program performance against the initial plan) and outcome evaluation (changes in people's attitudes and beliefs and changes in the environment, including public and private policies, formal and informal enforcement of regulations) will be used. At this point the project will formulate a strategy for gathering the evidence needed and using the evaluation findings.

### What are the expected outcomes?

It is anticipated this project will:

- report on the outputs and outcomes of eviDent; and
- allow eviDent to respond to the results of evaluations at various stages in its development in order to refine and improve the eviDent network.



