



From Insights to Impact: Knowledge Translation in Action

This case study demonstrates how we embedded knowledge translation strategies throughout each stage of our research on flexible grant schemes. By integrating these strategies from the outset, we aimed to boost the 'real-world' impact of our work. The case study offers practical insights for researchers wanting to bridge the gap between evidence and action.

Want to learn
more about
Pathways
in Place?

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Why knowledge translation matters

For research to have societal impact, it must be **relevant** to non-academic stakeholders (e.g., the public, policy-makers, practitioners) and it must effectively **reach** these audiences.

Knowledge translation strategies are actions, outputs, and processes to enhance the influence of research beyond academia.

These strategies include (but are not limited to):

- engaging with non-academic stakeholders to identify relevant research topics,
- adapting research findings into actionable insights,
- disseminating research outside academic circles.

In this case study, we provide examples of each of the strategies above. The focus of this case study, a scoping review of flexible grant schemes, was conducted through the Pathways in Place-Victoria University research program (<http://pathwaysinplace.com.au/victoria-university>), funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation.

Engaging with non-academic stakeholders to identify relevant research topics

Our research team regularly engages with policy-makers, practitioners, and decision-makers from public health and human services sectors. We engage with these stakeholders in a range of ways, including:

- attendance at workshops,
- conducting workshops,
- formal and informal meetings,
- presentations.

Through these engagement activities, we learned that flexible grant funding was viewed as a key enabler of the successful implementation of place-based approaches, as well as other health and community service delivery models.

This prompted our research team to further explore flexible grant schemes.

Adapting research findings into actionable insights

We conducted a systematic scoping review, which addressed these four research questions:

1. What literature is available on flexible grant schemes, and from which sectors?
2. How is flexibility interpreted across the grant schemes?
3. To what extent have flexible grant schemes been evaluated, what methods were used, and what outcomes were examined?
4. What are the key factors associated with the perceived success of grant schemes?

Along with publishing our findings in a peer-reviewed journal article, we also developed accessible outputs targeted to government funders of place-based approaches and public health and health service providers. See Table 1 for a summary of outputs.



Table 1: Summary of Outputs

Output	Description	Target Audience
Peer-reviewed article in BMC Public Health	Focuses on methods used, evidence of effectiveness and future research.	Academic researchers
Snapshot: Main Findings	Highlights the main findings of the review and includes key suggestions for government funders, particularly in relation to the importance of capacity building of funders and grantees to support implementation of flexible grant schemes.	Government funders, public health and human services providers
Snapshot: FlexFunding Framework	Introduces a new Framework to help funders clearly communicate what 'flexibility' means to foster a shared language and understanding with grantees. It could be incorporated into grant guidelines or applications.	Government funders, public health and human services providers

Disseminating research outside academic circles

We disseminated the peer-reviewed publication and two snapshots using a range of strategies.

1. Direct emails

Through our engagement activities, we identified stakeholders who were interested in the findings of the review. We sent direct emails to these stakeholders, including representatives from Federal Government departments (e.g, Department of Social Services), policy think tanks, and public health and human service providers.

In these emails, we highlighted our previous conversations about flexible funding models. We also connected the review with their organisation's existing strategies to demonstrate relevance and alignment with their work.

We also sent emails to target audiences outside our network. For example, we emailed the secretariat of the Community Sector Grants Engagement Framework (Department of Social Services) in which a priority area of 'enhancing flexibility on grant funding and administration' was identified. In this email, we positioned our resources as offering guidance and support for implementing activities related to this priority area. See Box 1.

Box 1: Dissemination Email to Secretariat

Dear Secretariat,

I read with interest the Community Sector Grants Engagement Framework, particularly the five pillars for change. Pillar 4: *Encourage diversity and flexibility* is an area where my recent research might offer practical support.

I'd like to share a recent review of flexible grant schemes that may be of relevance to your work under this pillar:

Full review: <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-025-21543-8>

To make the findings more accessible, we've developed two short summaries:

• **Implications for government funders:**

<https://www.pathwaysinplace.com.au/s/Flexible-Grant-Schemes-What-the-Evidence-Says-and-What-We-Still-Need-to-Know.pdf>

• **The FlexFunding Framework – a practical tool to support conversations about flexibility:**

<https://www.pathwaysinplace.com.au/s/The-FlexFunding-Framework-Getting-Funders-and-Grantees-on-the-Same-Page-About-Flexibility.pdf>

The findings and tools we have developed may offer guidance and support for implementing activities within the priority area of enhancing flexibility in grant funding and administration.

I would be happy to discuss these resources further and explore how they might apply in your context. I hope you find them useful, and please feel free to share them with colleagues or others in your network.

regards

Mel

2. Social media

Social media such as LinkedIn can be a great way to share research to a broad audience. Our LinkedIn post shared key takeaways for government funders and researchers from our systematic review. See Box 2.

3. Pathways in Place website

The Pathways in Place-Victoria University website includes a **Knowledge Hub**, where we compile and share a wide range of resources generated through our work in the Program. See Box 3.

Box 3: Website - Pathways in Place-Victoria University Knowledge Hub

Knowledge Hub

Welcome to our Knowledge Hub. Here you can find links to our peer-reviewed publications, snapshots, reports, blog posts and tools for practice.

Snapshots

Our snapshots are brief, accessible summaries that include tools, guidance, methods, processes and findings to guide practice, policy and future research. They guide and support the design and implementation of effective place-based, systems change approaches for community members, practitioners, and policy-makers.

The FlexFunding Framework: Getting funders and grantees on the same page about flexibility	+
Flexible grant schemes: What the evidence says (and what we still need to know)	+

4. Open access repository focused on public policy


We shared our **two snapshots** on the **Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO)**, a not-for-profit open access repository specialising in public policy grey literature. See Box 4.

We were happy that our APO post was recognised as the week's **top report**, 'as an example of research translation in action. By producing a simple, clear and practical summary, the researchers are making their research accessible and usable.'

5. Conversations/meetings

Our research team continues to engage with non-academic stakeholders. During these conversations we share relevant findings from our work, including this review.

Box 2: Social Media (LinkedIn) Post


Melinda Craike • You
 Associate Director, Research Engagement and Impact and Professor ...
 2d • Edited •

Traditional grant-making approaches often fall short, especially for initiatives like place-based approaches, which require adaptability, alignment with local needs, and cross-sector collaboration. So do we need to rethink how programs and services are funded? How can grant schemes truly support innovation, responsiveness, and long-term impact?

These questions come up repeatedly in our conversations with policy-makers and grant recipients. So, **Bo Klepac**, **Erin Fitzpatrick**, **Amy Mowle** and I decided to take a deep dive into the literature to map the evidence about flexible grant schemes.

Read "Flexible grant schemes: a systematic scoping review", published in BMC Public Health: <https://lnkd.in/gSKgDUq8>

Check out our two key snapshots: <https://lnkd.in/gzQUJbSF> and <https://lnkd.in/gXdyYCVf>

Main takeaways for government funders

- Define flexibility in grant guidelines to improve alignment with grant recipients. Our FlexFunding Framework (<https://lnkd.in/gzQUJbSF>) provides practical guidance.
- Build capacity—invest in training for both grant administrators and recipients to support the implementation of flexible grants.
- Evaluate impact—commission robust evaluations to assess the effectiveness of flexible grant models and strengthen the evidence base.

Main takeaways for researchers:

- Understanding how funding mechanisms shape public health practice, programs and services is crucial. Our review highlights key evidence gaps and areas for future study.

Let's Connect!

I'd love to hear your thoughts, experiences, or ideas on flexible funding. Let's discuss how we can make grant schemes work better for our communities.


Special shout out to **Bo Klepac** for leading this quality piece of research!

Box 4: Open Access Repository (APO) Dissemination

APO ANALYSIS & POLICY OBSERVATORY
 Brought to you by Susan McInnon Foundation

About Browse Collections

> Resource > Flexible grant schemes



Flexible grant schemes



What the evidence says (and what we still need to know)

26 FEB 2025

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PUBLISHER
Victoria University

Government grants Government funding Australia

RESOURCES

Flexible grant schemes: What the evidence says (and what we still need to know)	904.77 KB
Flexible grant schemes: getting funders and grantees on the same page about flexibility	726.28 KB

Evidencing Impact

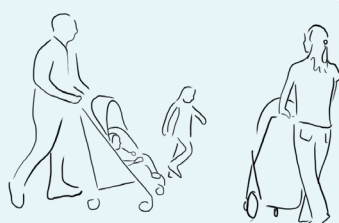
This section outlines how we will demonstrate the academic and societal impact of our review. While directly measuring societal impact is challenging—if not impossible—it is possible to assess reach, awareness, and influence on policy and practice. We anticipate these are the pathways through which societal impact may be realised. Table 2 shows some indicators that we will use to evidence our pathway to impact.

Table 2: Evidencing Impact

What	Indicator	Where we will find evidence
Academic impact	Citations in peer-reviewed journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google scholar BMC Public Health analytics
Reach and awareness	Views/downloads of peer-reviewed publication Views/downloads of snapshots Online attention and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways in Place website analytics BMC Public Health analytics APO analytics LinkedIn analytics Altmetrics
Societal impact - informing policy or practice	Citations or use in grey literature, particularly policy documents (have DOI for tracking). Testimonials/stakeholder feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overton Google scholar Email to stakeholders asking if they have used the resources Verbal feedback from stakeholders during meetings/presentations or other forums

Key takeaways

- Start with stakeholder engagement to shape your research agenda
- Create outputs tailored for non-academic audiences
- Use diverse dissemination strategies and channels, including grey literature repositories
- Plan ahead for how you'll track and evidence your pathway to impact





Suggested citation

Craike, M., Mowle, A., Fitzpatrick, E., Klepac, B. (2025). From Insights to Impact: Knowledge Translation in Action. Pathways in Place-Victoria University. Victoria University.

<https://doi.org/10.26196/fbc8-rj88>

This research was funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation. Any opinions, findings, or conclusions expressed in this snapshot are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.

About Pathways in Place

Pathways in Place: Co-Creating Community Capabilities is an innovative program of research and action that supports flourishing of children and young people. This Program is jointly delivered by Victoria University (Victoria, Australia) and Griffith University (Queensland, Australia) with funding generously provided by the Paul Ramsay Foundation.

The Program teams are each leading one of two complementary streams:

1. Early learning and development pathways (children and youth 0-15 y.o.), led by Griffith University in Logan (Queensland, Australia).
2. Pathways through education to employment (youth 15-24 y.o.), led by Victoria University in Brimbank (Victoria, Australia).



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