

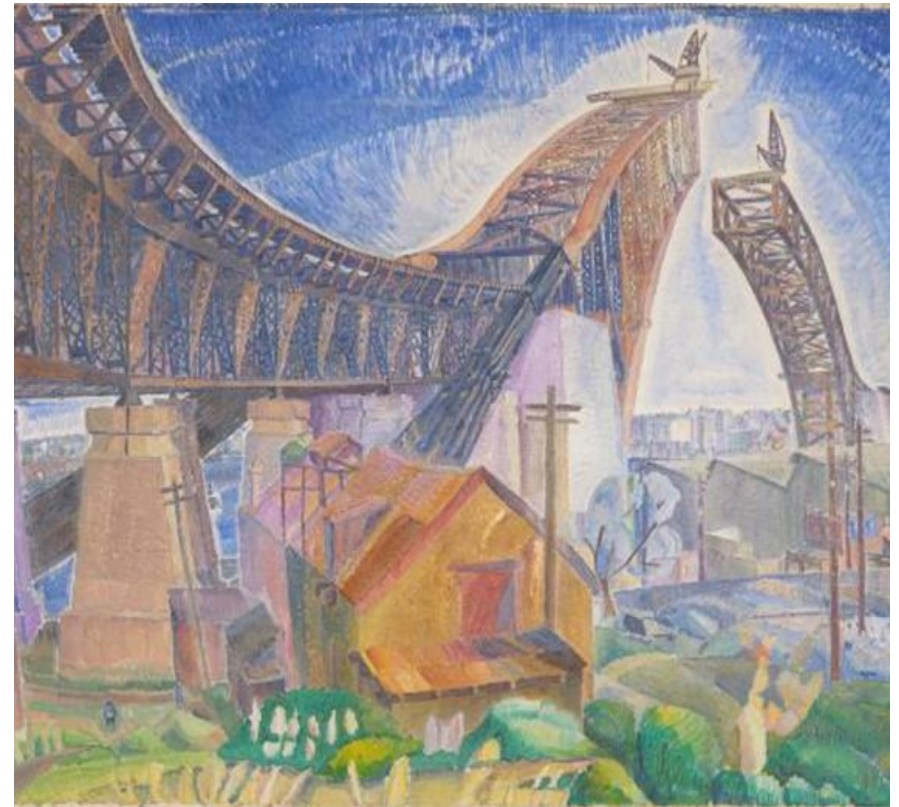
# Rapid reviews: Tools to support evidence-informed health policy

Gabriel Moore, Sally Redman, Sian Rudge, Abby Haynes  
Evidence Based Health Care, Sicily 2017

# Sax Institute

To improve health and wellbeing by driving the use of research in policies, programs and services

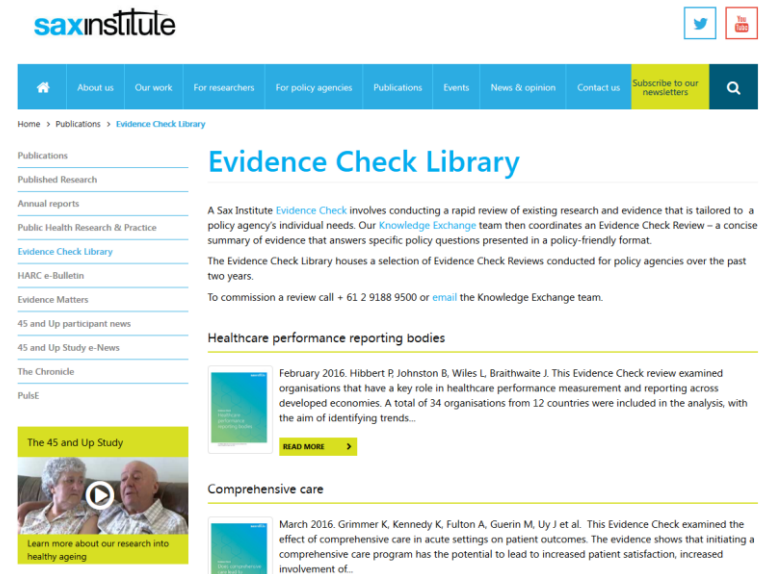
- Is an independent, not for profit
- Works in partnership with government, non government, and research organisations
- Build research, services, systems
- Public health and health service research groups
- Policy and program agencies



*'The bridge in curve'* Grace Cossington Smith, 1930

# Background: Evidence Check

- Arising in a policy process
- In a user friendly format
- 10-12 weeks
- Generated by the policy team
- Assisted by knowledge broker
- Conducted by external reviewers
- 245 commissioned
- 202 completed



# Background: Rapid reviews for policy

- Policymakers want to use research in their work
- Timeliness and relevance of research are key
- Rapid reviews are increasingly used

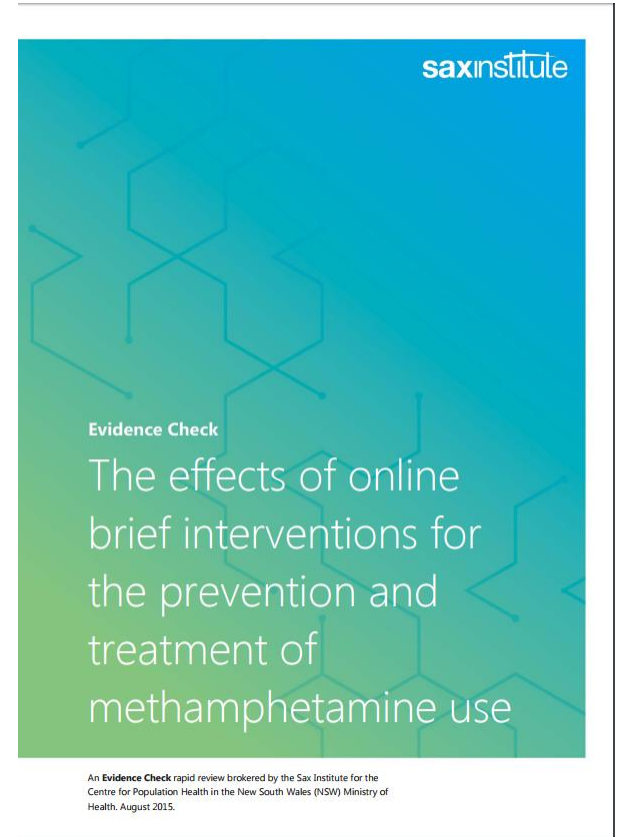
BUT

- No-one has yet shown whether or how rapid reviews are useful for policy agencies

# Aim

## To determine:

- Whether policy makers use rapid reviews?
- If so, how are they used?
- If not used, why not?



# Method

- Rapid reviews 2006-2015
- Quality assurance process
- 3-6 months *post*
- Questions
  - Purpose
  - Satisfaction
  - Use (all activities)
- Existing interview data
- Coding schedule
  - Type of agency
  - Actual and planned use
  - Reasons for non use
- Pilot tested schedule
- RA extracted data
- Randomly selected 15%

## Results 1: **Were** the reviews used?

- 139 interviews were analysed (from 150 reviews)
- 89% of rapid reviews were used (n=134)
- 338 separate instances of use were identified
- 3% not used, but agencies had a plan in place (n=4)
- Not stated (n=1)

## Results 2: **How** were reviews used?

- **Used most frequently to:**
  - Set priorities for investment (22%)
  - Determine details of policies (21%)
  - Support interagency negotiations (14%)
  - Identify and evaluate alternatives (11%)





## Results 2: **How** were reviews used?

- **Rapid reviews also used to:**
  - Communicate information (8%)
  - Confirm thinking or ideas (5%)
  - Inform research program or process (4%)
  - Contribute to development of clinical guidelines (4%)



## Results 2: **How** were reviews used?

- **Used least frequently to:**
  - Support consultation or consensus processes (3%)
  - Inform data collection (2%)
  - Strengthen a policy position (2%)
  - Design or implement evaluations (1%)



# Why were review **not used**?

- There were changes in:
  - Organisational structures, resources or key personnel
  - Political momentum
- Policymakers planned to use irrespective of barriers



# Limitations

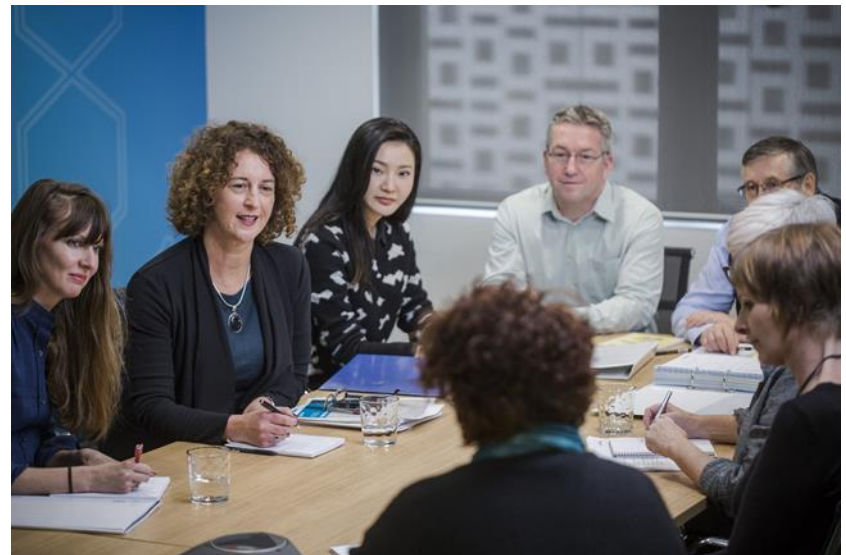
- Social desirability may influence responses
- Analysis limited to one rapid review program
- Features of Evidence Check may limit generalisability



## *Bottom line? 'Fit for purpose'*

### Rapid reviews:

- Used to support a number of policymaking processes
- Well aligned with agencies' purpose and intended use
- Effective tool for providing timely relevant research.



# Acknowledgements



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