

Developing a progressive mental health research and evaluation agenda through researcher, consumer & practitioner collaboration.

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- **2008** **Nationally** **2015**
1287 Consumers 7000+ Consumers
225 Staff 800+ Staff
- **Neami Strategic Directions 2008-2011**
No. 1: Improve consumer outcomes by improving evaluation, research and the transfer of training into practice.
...develop a progressive research agenda!

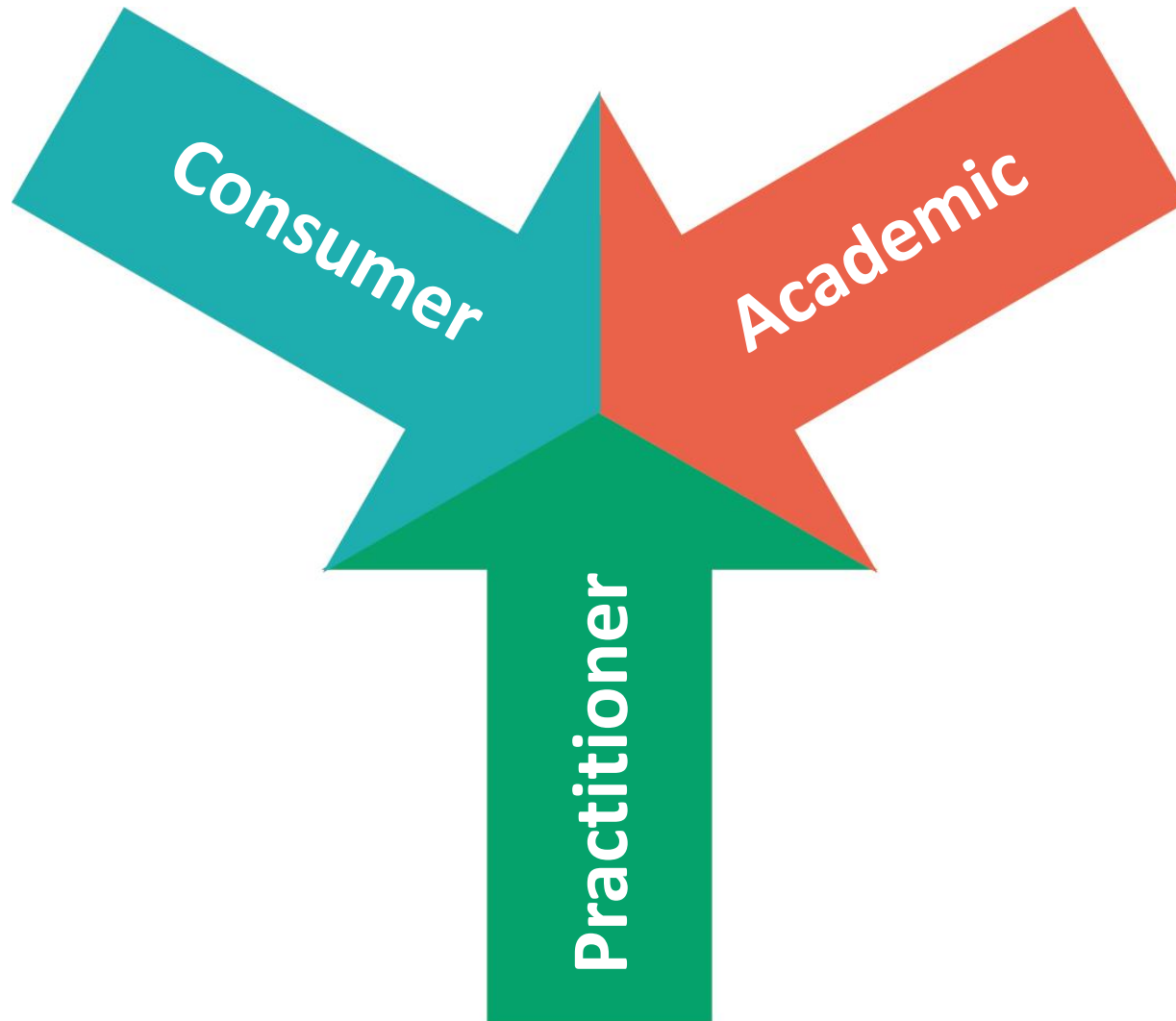
“How do we as an organisation with a focus on service delivery, become a leading organisation in recovery focused evidence based research and evaluation”?

Principles, Purpose, Objectives

- **PRACTICAL APPLICATION:** Projects that are most likely to lead to improving outcomes for consumers.
- **ETHICAL:** Uphold the dignity, privacy, safety, rights and reputation of participants.
- **RIGOUR:** Secures integrity, validity, reliability of process and results.
- **KNOWLEDGE:** Innovative, informative, responsive, relevant and useful.

Co-Production in Research

Research and Evaluation Committee



The co-productive research space

Such spaces may require facilitation capable of enhancing communicative processes, making different thought styles visible and linking them around common interests; promoting joint reflection towards a common understanding of situations and collective action; as part of a learning process based on respect, openness and deliberation.

(Pohl et al, 2010)



Image: shutterstock/Marie Maerz

Lived Experience Expertise Member: Dave Peters

- Processes to assist meaningful engagement
- Bringing the consumer perspective – ensuring validity, safety, dignity and respect for participants
- Atmosphere of collaboration
- Ideas and opinion are valued and appreciated
- Feedback from researchers about my feedback
- Own learning

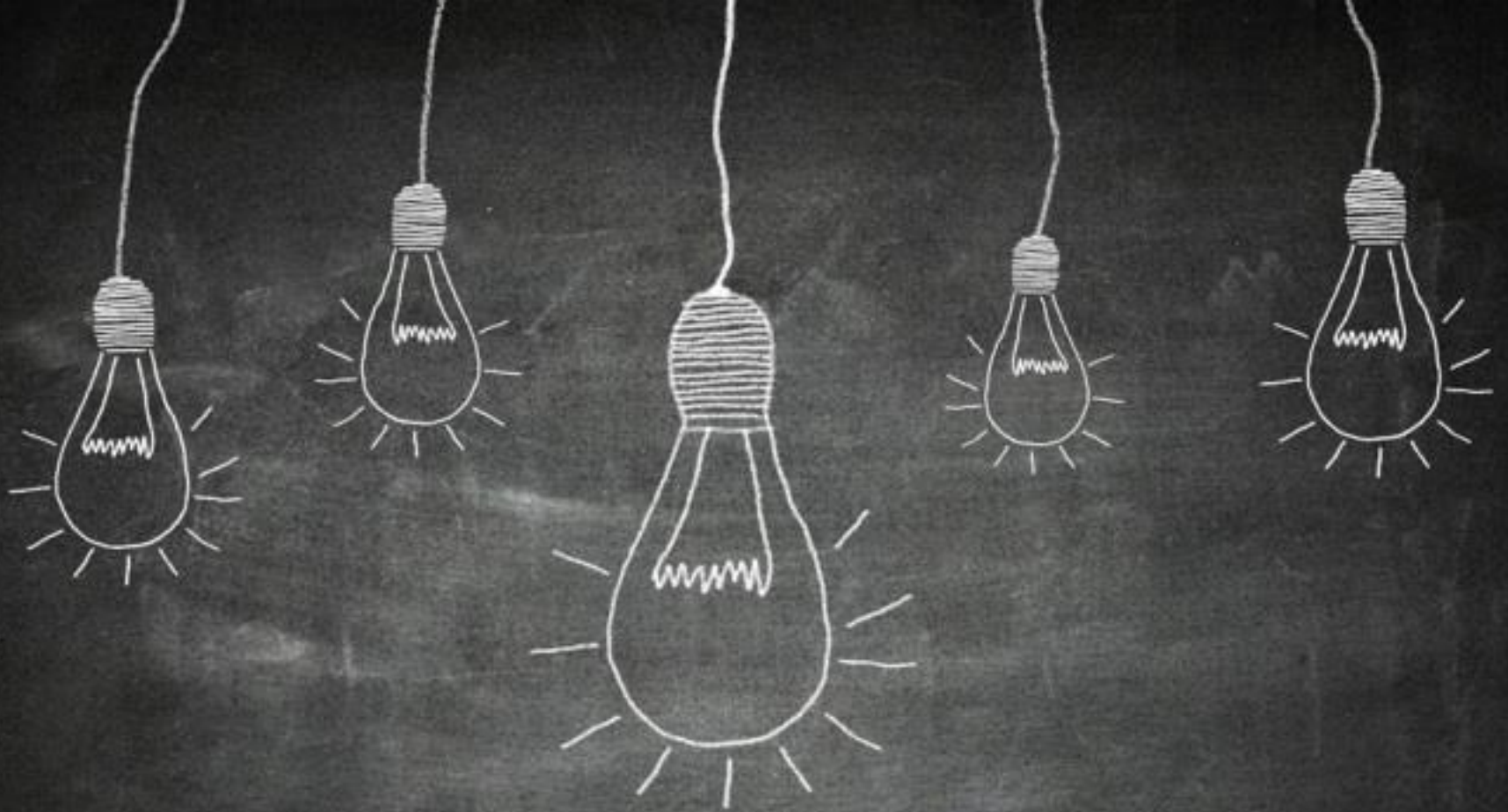


Image: shutterstock/ Mathias Rosenthal

Academic Expertise Member: Peter Caputi

- Mix of expertise in research and evaluation methods
- Experience of real-world mental health programs and projects
- Commitment to collaboration between researchers, consumers and practitioners
- Commitment to ensuring principles of consumer participation are enacted in all aspects of the research cycle
- Frank and fearless interrogation of proposals
- Willingness to offer informative and supportive suggestions especially to new researchers

Why did I put my hand up?

- Research relevance and impact
- Understanding of contemporary challenges
- Counter the caricature of the ivory tower
- Research *with* people rather than *on* people
- Create knowledge spaces outside of academia

My experience on the committee and what I have gained

- Changed way of looking at whole research process
- Makes you a better researcher/academic
- An understanding of the importance of engaging key stakeholders

Practitioner Expertise Member: Rachel Hughes

“Being on the committee has helped me to realise that I have an expertise in my role;... and that is what I speak to at the meeting. I don’t need to have an academic opinion about research methodology or statistics as what I can bring is the richness of experience in direct service delivery. I have always felt valued for that in the meetings”.

*Rachel Hughes,
Staff member on the Research and Evaluation Committee*

In conclusion...

- The sharing of ideas, experience and expertise between researchers, consumers and practitioners can lead to research that has greater:
 - Relevance and applicability
 - Integrity and validity
 - Distribution of power and control
- The challenges include:
 - Working with long embedded knowledge hierarchies of expert and lay person
 - Ability to facilitate collaboration between different forms of expertise including potential
 - Increase in time commitment and organisational administration

However the process of engaging in co-produced research itself can create a basis for learning and change both individually and collectively. Furthermore, the process can help to help to build trust and respectful relationships between stakeholders.

References

- Durose, C., Beebeejaun, Y., Rees, J., Richardson, J. and Richardson L. (2015). Connected Communities Towards Co-Production in Research with Communities. Retrieved from *www.ahrc.ac.uk*.
- Pohl, C., Rist, R., Zimmerman, A., Fry, P., Gurung, G.S., Schneider, F., Speranza, C.I., Kiteme, B., Boillat, S., Serrano, E., Hirsch Hadorn G. and Weismann, U (2010). Researchers roles in knowledge co-production: experience from sustainability research in Kenya, Switzerland, Bolivia and Nepal *Science and Public Policy* 37 (4), 267-281.

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We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land we work on and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

We welcome and appreciate diversity in all its forms, including staff and consumers, and believe diversity makes our teams, services and organisation stronger.