
Research Utilisation Project

Good morning/Good afternoon _____.

My name is _____ and I am calling from the Australian Centre for Child Protection.

You may remember completing a one-page survey from the National Child Protection Clearinghouse in June about research use in the child protection field.

[If having difficulty, prompt: The one-page survey was distributed with the Clearinghouse’s most recent Issues Paper, “The effectiveness of parent education and home visiting child maltreatment prevention programs”].

At the end of that survey you indicated that you would be willing to take part in a telephone survey in relation to this topic.

The purpose of the phone survey is to find out the degree to which you **currently** use different kinds of research and how we can make research more useful and accessible for people such as yourself, who work in the child protection field.

During the survey I will ask you about your **current** use of research; this may include research that you have accessed directly (for example, by reading a journal or going to a conference presentation) or indirectly (for example, as part of a professional development course, or from peers).

All responses to the survey are confidential and will be used for the purposes of this project only. Your anonymity will be maintained throughout the study and only researchers directly involved in this project will have access to your responses.

The phone survey will take about 20-30 minutes.

Are you still willing to take part in the survey?

- Yes
- No

[If no: record reasons why...]

Thank you for your time.

[If yes: Are you free to take part in the phone survey now or would you like to make another time?]

If wishing to reschedule: What day/time would be better for you?

Day: _____ Time: _____

If yes: Great, let’s make a start...

To begin, I will define a few terms that are used repeatedly throughout this survey.

The first is **research**. When I use the term **research** I am meaning, for example: “academic studies, program evaluations, and reviews of the existing literature”.

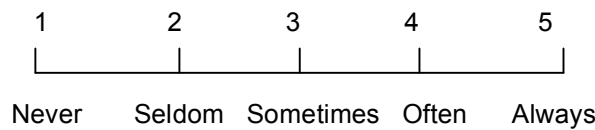
When I use the expression, **accessing research**, I am meaning, for example: “looking up research (as in literature searching) and reading research”.

And when I use the expression, **applying research**, I am meaning, for example, “using research to inform your work, that is, to make a decision about policy or practice.

Is that clear?

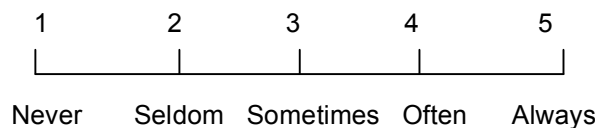
- 1. (a) Using this definition of **accessing research**, to what extent do you access research in your **current** role?

Can you please rate the extent you access research from 1 to 5, where 1 is *never*, 2 is *seldom*, 3 is *sometimes*, 4 is *often*, and 5 is *always*?



- (b) Using this definition of **applying research**, to what extent do you apply research in your **current** role?

And if you could rate this also from 1 to 5, where 1 is *never*, 2 is *seldom*, 3 is *sometimes*, 4 is *often*, and 5 is *always*?



[If **never** at question 1(b), go to question 3]

- 2. How have you applied research in your current role?

[If struggling: for example, have you used research to make a decision about case management, to develop a program, or to allocate resources].

[If **never** at question 1 (a) go to question 4]

3. And how have you accessed research in your current role?

[If struggling: for example, by attending seminars, reading journals, or through your workplace]

Section 1: Barriers/Facilitators

Some situations and environments make it easier to access and apply research than others...

4. Is there anything that helps or hinders your ability to access and apply research in your **current** role? Yes/no

a. Let's start with what helps you to access and apply research...

[If struggling: what about easy access to research materials and supportive management?]

b. Now if we talk about what makes it hard to access and apply research in your **current** role...

[If struggling: for example, not enough time to allocate to reading research]

5. Now I am going to read through a list of factors that may or may not assist you to access and apply research. As I read through this list, I would like you to indicate whether these statements **do** or **do not** relate to you or your workplace.

Basically, answer “yes” if you believe the statement relates to you or your workplace and “no” if it doesn’t. In responding to this list of questions, rather than thinking about whether these factors *have* or *could* apply, think about whether they *do* or *don’t* apply **now**.

There are 22 items to read through so bear with me...

[*Sometimes* is available as a response option where the respondent cannot commit to a *yes* or *no*. However, do not offer *sometimes* as an option when introducing the scale]

RESEARCH UTILISATION SURVEY 2

OFFICE USE ONLY

ID: _____

Facilitator	Yes	No	Some times
I have authority in my workplace to make changes to my practice			
I have time to read research reports			
I lack access to research			
I am able to see the relevance of research to my role			
I have management or colleagues who don't support the use of research			
I feel that research use is "information overload"			
I am able to clearly and easily understand research reports			
I have the opportunity to talk with researchers (e.g., by attending workshops & seminars)			
I find that research is too theoretical, complex, and inconclusive			
I have a workplace environment that supports change			
I feel that I need answers now and can't wait for research			
I receive appropriate training in research use			
I lack authority to implement research findings			
I have access to an up-to-date database on "what works"			
I have little time to read research reports or to do anything with them			
I have an opportunity to be involved in research			
I have limited training and knowledge on how to seek out, evaluate, or apply research			
I have easy access to research materials (e.g., computers, the internet, libraries etc.)			
I experience work-related factors such as job stress and burnout			
I receive support from colleagues to use research findings			
I feel as though research involves too much risk and responsibility (e.g., what if something goes wrong)			
I feel that I need to consider other sources of information such as public opinion, interest groups and the media			

6. Thinking about this list, is there anything else that you would like to add regarding factors that currently help or hinder your access to, and application of, research?

(a) Starting with what helps...

(b) And then what hinders...

7. Has it been easy for you to access and apply research in the past? Yes/no

What has made it easy?

[If struggling: was it something about the workplace or role you were in at the time?]

8. Have there been times when it has been hard for you to access and apply research in the past? Yes/No

What made it hard?

[If struggling: for example, have you had difficulty accessing research or found that reading research can feel like information overload?]

9. What would help you to access and apply research in your current role?

[If struggling: would it be helpful if your workplace provided training or perhaps allowed you more time to access research?]

Section 2: Research recognition

There are many publications and resources directed towards meeting the needs of professionals in the child protection field. Thus, we're interested in finding out what is useful to professionals in the field, and their favoured sources of information. With this knowledge we are able to better inform researchers about how to ensure child protection professionals actually find out about important research findings that may inform their work. So, I am interested to hear...

10. What journals, research reports, books, or other print sources are you aware of in the areas of child abuse prevention, child protection and out-of-home care?

(Table 1) Respondent-unprompted

Journals	Read	Usefulness Rate 1-5

11. In addition to those you have listed, have you accessed any material from the following journals in the past 12 months? Yes/no

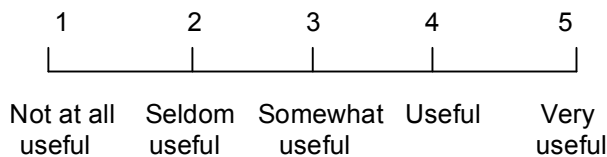
[SEE TABLES 2 & 3]

[NOTE, IF RECOGNISED UNPROMPTED DO NOT PROMPT]

12. Of the material you have accessed in the past 12 months, how useful was it to you in your current role?

[SEE TABLES 1, 2 & 3]

Please rate the degree of usefulness from 1 to 5 where 1 is *not at all useful*, 2 is *seldom useful*, 3 is *somewhat useful*, 4 is *useful*, and 5 is *very useful*.



(Table 2) Starting with Australian Journals...

Australian Journals	Read	Usefulness Rate 1-5
Family Matters		
Children Australia		
Communities, Children and Families Australia		
National Child Protection Clearinghouse, Child Abuse Prevention Issues Paper		
Developing Practice		

(Table 3) And international journals...

International Journals	Read	Usefulness Rate 1-5
Child Abuse and Neglect		
Child Abuse Review		
Child Maltreatment		
Child Welfare		

[Go to Question 12]

13. Have you accessed any information or materials from research organisations that provide resources on child abuse prevention, child protection and/or out-of-home care **research**? Yes/no

[If yes] What are those organisations? (e.g., National Child Protection Clearinghouse; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; Australian Childhood Foundation; NAPCAN; ISPCAN etc.)

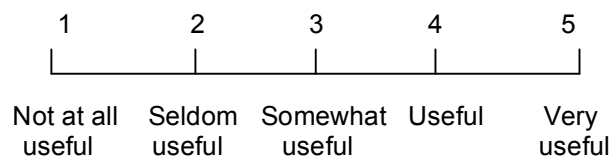
(Table 4)

Organisation	Usefulness Rate 1-5

14. How useful have the resources and materials accessed from these organisations been to you in your main role?

[SEE TABLE 4]

Please rate the degree of usefulness from 1 to 5, where 1 is *not at all useful*, 2 is *seldom useful*, 3 is *somewhat useful*, 4 is *useful*, and 5 is *very useful*.

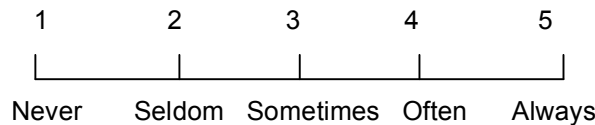


15. Of the research that you have accessed in the past 12 months, was there a particular article or piece of research that stood out? Yes/no

[If yes] Could you describe this research?

16. How often has the research you have accessed in the past 12 months been provided to you by your employer? Please rate this where 1 is *never*, 2 is *seldom*, 3 is *sometimes*, 4 is *often*, and 5 is *always*?

[If struggling: I am trying to distinguish between research that is provided to you by your employer in, for example, training manuals, and that which you seek out independently]



[If rated between 2-5] In what capacity or context is research provided (for example, during training, via library updates etc.)?

Recognition – unprompted [Application]

17. Are there any studies that have significantly influenced your role, practice, or understanding of issues in the child protection field?

[If stuck: What about any theories or approaches to practice that have been influential...?] Prompt required Yes [] No []

18. How did the study/studies (theory or approach to practice) influence your role, practice, or understanding?

19. What made the study/studies (theory or approach to practice) stand out for you?

Ease of understanding

20. Have you ever read a piece of research that was easy to understand?

- Yes
- No

a. [If yes] What was it about the research that made it easy to understand?

Section 4: Conferences/Workshops

21. How often do you attend conferences or workshops?

- More than once a year
- About once a year
- About once every 3 years
- Less than once every 3 years
- Never **[Go to Section 5: Demographics]**

22. What was the last conference or workshop you attended?

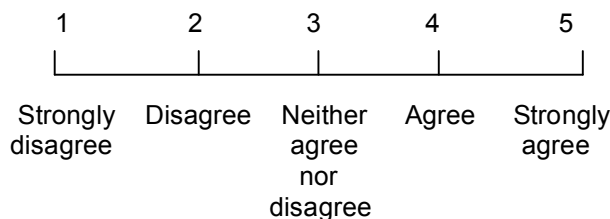
23. What were the best features of the conference or workshop?

24. Did you attend any sessions that presented research findings? Yes/no

a. [If yes] Can you describe any research that stood out for you?

b. What was it that made it stand out?

25. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is *strongly disagree*, 2 is *disagree*, 3 is *neither agree nor disagree*, 4 is *agree*, and 5 is *strongly agree*, how much do you agree with the following statement: "I learn more from attending a conference (or workshop) presentation than from reading a journal article?"



26. Have you ever done any research yourself (e.g., tertiary study, projects at work)? Yes/no

a. [If yes] Can you briefly describe that research?

27. Are you aware of any research projects that are being or have been conducted in your organisation? Yes/no

a. [If yes] Can you briefly describe the project/s?

Section 5: Demographics

To finish, I am going to ask you a few questions about yourself...

28. What is your age?

- 18-25
- 25-35
- 35-45
- 45-55
- 55-65
- 65+

29. How many years experience do you have in the child protection field?

- Less than 6 months
- 6-12 months
- 12 to 2 years
- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- more than 10 years

30. How many years have you spent in your current role/with your current organisation?

- Less than 6 months
- 6-12 months
- 12 to 2 years
- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- more than 10 years

31. What is your highest/most recent qualification?

- Diploma _____
- Graduate Diploma _____
- Bachelor Social Work
- Bachelor Arts (Psychology)
- Bachelor Science (Psychology)
- Bachelor Arts other _____
- Bachelor Science other _____
- Graduate Certificate _____
- Postgraduate Certificate _____
- Masters Social Work
- Masters Psychology
- Masters other _____
- Other _____

32. What is your position title?

33. How many years is it since you graduated from your most recent degree/qualification?

- Less than 6 months
- 6-12 months
- 12 to 2 years
- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- more than 10 years

That brings me to the end of the survey...

34. Is there anything else that you would like to add? Any thoughts you have on the survey?

Thank you very much for your time.