

General Practice Research Priority Setting in Australia. Informing a Research Agenda to Deliver Best Patient Care

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

general practice

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Australia - Australia

Why was it conducted at all?

General practice research is the subsection of primary care research that addresses gaps in evidence about care delivered in general practice. Despite delivering care to 85% of the Australian population annually, general practice receives a paucity of government health research funding when compared with tertiary healthcare settings. However, general practitioners (GPs) require evidence-based tools and guidelines applicable to their patients.

What was the objective?

to establish a set of general practice research priorities to guide resource allocation, and to inform a research agenda that optimizes the delivery of the best patient care

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 21 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: literature review to establish a master list of priorities, 63 priority items identified and categorized under four groups. Step 2: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to rate the 63 items, 17 items reached consensus for high priority and were excluded for round 2, 12 items reached consensus for not high priority and were also excluded for round 2. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to re-rate items

Which stakeholders took part?

RACGP members, council and representatives of expert committees, representatives from university departments of general practice, representatives from other general practice organizations, general practice education providers, representatives from primary care networks, allied health including pharmacy and nursing, rural health, carer and consumer organizations, and community and philanthropic organizations. Delphi round 1: 23 participants. Delphi round 2: 28 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

A set of accepted criteria - experience, knowledge and policy influence - was used as inclusion criteria for selecting the 83 expert panel invitees.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.