

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWLEDGE BROKERING?

Knowledge brokering is something that everyone can participate in, and is an integral part of all AB-CRC projects. You may be surprised to find out you already take part in knowledge brokering without realising it.

Knowledge brokering can involve a wide variety of common business, research and communication activities. It could be as easy as sending an email informing stakeholders of a recent research development, or holding a project reference group meeting which brings researchers and stakeholders together to discuss project milestones or progress. You could take part in a training session, participate in a stakeholder or adoption forum, write an article for the AB-CRC newsletter or synthesise knowledge to support a policy paper. You may even be the key to organizing a new international public or animal health initiative, or negotiating financial support for a new diagnostic test or surveillance system to be adopted throughout Australia and the region.

At a strategic level, knowledge brokering aims to:

- inform the strategic **direction** of research projects and the Centre through stakeholder feedback and evaluation (e.g. project reference groups or steering committee meetings);
- facilitate **adoption** of new knowledge and technologies arising from our research and education programs (e.g. adoption projects or adoption forums);
- foster effective research **collaborations** (e.g. short term researcher placements or stakeholder forums); and
- enhance communication **networks** in the biosecurity arena (e.g. share relevant knowledge across projects and sectors to strengthen linkages).

Knowledge brokering can be as simple as sending an email, meeting with your project reference group, writing an article for the AB-CRC newsletter, or taking part in an adoption forum.

Knowledge brokering is used by the Canadian Health Service Research Foundation, World Health Organisation, Land & Water Australia, and CRCs including the CRC for Aboriginal Health and the Bushfire CRC.



To find out more about knowledge brokering, funding for adoption projects, or the Application & Linkage Program, please visit our website via the AB-CRC homepage.

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DEMYSTIFYING KNOWLEDGE BROKERING

ADDING VALUE BY MANAGING ADOPTION

The Australian Biosecurity CRC for Emerging Infectious Disease (AB-CRC) undertakes research aimed at improving biosecurity practice, and providing evidence and knowledge to underpin and inform national biosecurity policy.

The main focus of our organisation is applied research, and the Application & Linkage (A&L) Program was created to provide a strong supporting structure for adoption of research outcomes.

Knowledge brokering is one of the key components of the A&L Program's research adoption strategy. It can be defined as a two-way dialogue between researchers and stakeholders that enables each party to share their knowledge and expertise for mutual benefit. The key feature of knowledge brokering is opening up the lines of communication and connecting people, allowing them the opportunity to build good working relationships and feel comfortable exchanging ideas, knowledge and information.



Any time that you share information and expertise with people in other projects, programs, organisations or sectors, you are engaging in knowledge brokering.

WHY USE KNOWLEDGE BROKERING?

For researchers, knowledge brokering provides an opportunity to develop a better understanding of stakeholder needs, issues and experience, to better tailor research for adoption. Our stakeholders (who come from a diverse range of government, business, industry and community groups with an interest or involvement in biosecurity) benefit from access to updated scientific knowledge and tools, which help to inform their decisions and review their needs and practices. This dynamic feedback process increases the likelihood of research adoption.

The AB-CRC strongly supports all its researchers, collaborators and stakeholders in knowledge brokering. The A&L Program provides financial and organisational support for knowledge brokering, such as research or education scoping exercises, workshops, and development of customised communication packages. Any initial enquiries should be made to the Program Director; details can be found on the A&L Program website.



“Knowledge brokering links decision makers & researchers so that they are able to better understand each other’s goals & professional cultures, influence each other’s work, forge new partnerships, & promote the use of research-based evidence in decision-making.”

Canadian Health Service Research Foundation

KNOWLEDGE BROKERS

Some organisations have designated 'knowledge brokers' who act as facilitators; bringing together researchers and stakeholders, who might not ordinarily interact, in an effort to build relationships and close the 'culture gap' which exists between people from different sectors. They help to plan, assess and implement research, gain acceptance of new knowledge and technologies, and support sound and effective decision making. The AB-CRC currently has 17 part-time, and many more unofficial, knowledge brokers. Each year, the A&L Program recognises some of its most successful and proactive knowledge brokers with an award at our Annual Workshop.

At the AB-CRC, knowledge brokering takes place at four levels:

Project-based knowledge brokers maximize the impact of individual research and education projects on policy and practice. Examples of project-based brokers include:

- Dr Hans Heine (CSIRO) who, collaborating with state veterinary agencies, facilitated the validation and implementation of a new avian influenza diagnostic test to laboratories in all Australian states and territories, as well as New Zealand.
- Dr Tony Martin (Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia) who, in partnership with the AusVet team, was instrumental in gaining acceptance of a new method for quantifying freedom from disease across a variety of sectors by organizing and participating in training courses nationally and internationally, encouraging application and testing of the new method.

Network-based knowledge brokers coordinate across the national biosecurity networks – including animal, wildlife, and public health - gathering and utilizing information & intelligence. Examples include:

- Dr Mike Nunn (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry), who actively promotes and facilitates the exchange of knowledge between national and international animal health networks and the AB-CRC by communicating industry intelligence & technological developments.
- Dr David Smith (PathWest) who plays a significant role in negotiating community biosecurity initiatives nationally, as well as communicating relevant knowledge between the AB-CRC and public health networks.

Program-based knowledge brokers work across programs to enhance integration of research outcomes across disciplines, sectors, and between providers and users of research. All of our Program Leaders are proactive in knowledge brokering across programs, including:

- Disease Ecology Program Leader Dr Hume Field (Department of Primary Industry & Fisheries) who works across all of the research themes in the area of henipavirus research. Hume recognizes the value, and participates in the design, of projects using genomics, effective diagnostic tools and disease surveillance; with the aim of better understanding the risk of disease incursion, transmission and establishment. Hume is also active in the international disease ecology community, synthesizing knowledge and communicating an integrated approach to disease ecology.

Issues-based knowledge brokers facilitate a coordinated response across all AB-CRC Programs to specific, identified biosecurity issues. At our Centre:

- Dr Moira McKinnon (Department of Health and Ageing) proposed, and gained support for, the first dedicated forum for knowledge exchange between Arbovirus researchers and public health policy makers.
- The 'Peri-urban pig surveillance' project team (University of Sydney) were instrumental in developing stakeholder interest in biosecurity issues affecting peri-urban pig populations in NSW, leading to the first stakeholder forum in this research area.