**Experiences of research-policy engagement in policy-making processes**

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**Supplementary Table S1. Participant suggestions for facilitating collaboration between research and policy categorised by type of knowledge translation strategy (Push, Pull or Exchange)**

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| --- | --- |
| *Policy actors* | *Academic/Researcher*  |
| *(Push)* |
| Better information about who to contact in academia and how collaboration could be funded | Clear role/program descriptions and Govt/NGO organisational structure charts publicly available, (to know who is responsible for different areas of relevance);Policymakers to make themselves more accessible to researchers |
| Better/more targeted ‘advertising’/promotion of university services and expertise | Better information on which policy actors are looking for researchers and where to find them |
| Central portal to connect with researchers | A register of [policy agency] interest and topics |
| *(Pull/facilitating user-pull)* |
| Research funders should better value in-kind contributions from Not-for-profit agencies | More flexible grants, especially for smaller policy-related projects; Research funders to realise that joint research/policy positions are critical  |
| Dedicate budget and staff time to support research partnerships with Govt/NGO | Dedicated funding for policy evaluation |
| Engagement of senior decision-makers to support collaborations with research orgs, to value research | Engagement of Ministers across sectors to pitch research ideas |
| Liaison officers based at Universities | Knowledge broker and specific KT budgets |
| Connect policy actors with academic experience in networks | Inclusion of research/policy translators on policy-focused research projects |
| Improve researchers’ understanding of policy | Ensure Government policymakers have a broader understanding of the role and value of research commensurate with their role/ mandate;Better understanding of organisational priorities, on both sides |
| Networking forums for middle management to meet researchers; Information-sharing forums | Cross-industry forums/ working groups/ conferences; Opportunities to meet and engage with organisation representatives around issues of common interest;'Round table' discussions on ideas and trends that are intersectoral and interdisciplinary  |
| *Exchange (including pre-conditions, systems, strategy and processes)* |
| Develop shared goals, joint outcomes of interest | Longer lead times to support the relationship work that is essential for development of clear shared goals  |
| Co-locations of researchers in policy environments | More joint research/policy positions  |
| Platforms for ongoing engagement and ensuring relationships are maintained outside transactions/research funding context | Maintaining contact with key agencies;*Ensuring researchers are informed after decisions made/use of research* |
| Advocate in planning stage to involve academics/researchers (e.g., use Evaluation budget) | Joint granting/project opportunities, incubators |
| Improve academic job descriptions and impact metrics to increase value of engagement, reduce relative merit in journal publications | Change [impact] priorities related to journal articles or grant funding[Give researchers] more time to build relationships |
| Meeting researchers, building trust | Building trust between the two groups |
| Advocate for funding to be more strongly linked to research that has public/social outcomes | Increase the importance of this [collaboration with policy] within the university sector |
| Transparency around University/ Academic institution costs and overheads in partnership research projects | Support for Governments to be transparent and open about research findings and policy issues so that innovation can safely occur |
| Greater control over IP in research by Government agencies  | Transparency around limits of co-production - research evidence needs to provide an independent perspective for a decision maker so needs to retain its integrity |
|  | How to create a mutual understanding, trust and working relationship if public servants change role and agency frequently |
|  | Steering or working groups across sectors with agendas to meet to make the collaboration purposeful |