**Research policy briefs**

A new kind of policy brief that:

* Presents academic research in an easy-to-understand format
* Uses state-of-the-art quantitative methods combined with data to evaluate the impact of government policy
* Provides the broader context – what has research told us so far?
* Focuses on policy outcomes and effectiveness
* Will be useful for policy design and communication
* Does not shy away from technical detail when it is important

These policy briefs are not:

* Simply identifying problems
* Advocacy
* Ambit claims for more government resources
* Dry and overly technical or caveated

Our hope is that these research policy briefs will:

* Lift the quality of debate around the effectiveness of policy in Australia
* Increase the evidence about the impact and outcomes of policy
* Increase dialogue between academia and the public service
* Demonstrate the importance of empirical research in informing policy
* Highlight what decades of preceding research has taught us in a policy area

Our intended audiences are:

* Policy makers who want to use research to design and improve policy
* Public servants who want to understand what the academic literature has to say about policy effectiveness and outcomes

Follow-up

Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss our research or the state of knowledge on the research topic. No questions are off limits! We are happy to present our research to your department but also happy to come and talk to you about:

* Your paper doesn’t answer the question we’re interested in. Can you help us to figure out a way to answer the questions that really interest us?
* Can you help us evaluate a policy that we have implemented?
* We’re thinking about some new policies. Can you help us implement the policy in a way that will make it easy for us to find out whether it worked or not?
* Why is empirical research important?
* What is all this technical stuff about statistical significance and causal impact and should we worry about it?