

A Roadmap to Monitor the Outcomes of a new Program: the Tasmanian Medicine Program's Evaluation and Quality Improvement Framework

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Abstract

1. Background

The Tasmanian School of Medicine is building a flexible five-year Evaluation and Quality Improvement Framework as a roadmap to help us monitor the implementation, impact, and outcomes of the new Tasmanian Medicine Program and to prepare for the next accreditation cycle in 2027.

2. Summary of Work

“Evaluation” is defined as “the set of policies and processes by which a medical education provider determines the extent to which its training and education functions are achieving their intended outcomes” [1]. The Framework's key outcomes drivers are Quality Improvement, Medical Education Research and Accreditation.

Complexity theory[ii] provides a different and useful perspective for developing the Framework and choosing evaluation models that serve program needs more effectively. It allows us to avoid an overly narrow or simplistic approach to our work.

3. Results

The Framework is mapped to the AMC's revised Accreditation Standards, using their identified thematic areas of change. These areas are used in preference to the six Accreditation Standards.

4. Discussion

We are building a Framework that can simplify data collection and analysis by making sure there is alignment of medical education research questions with questions asked by the AMC, the university, unit coordinators, students, and external stakeholders. It is informing and supporting committees and professional staff to achieve evaluation outcomes.

5. Conclusion

This flexible five-year Framework provides a roadmap to help us monitor the implementation, impact, and outcomes of the new Program and to prepare for the next accreditation cycle in 2027.

6. Take-home messages / implications for research and practice

- The Framework provides annual plans of evaluation and guidelines for staff about what and when existing evaluations are occurring and allows for new or once-off evaluation projects.
- The Framework is a living document, is under construction, and will be progressed over a five-year cycle.

References (maximum three)

[1] Australian Medical Council. Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Primary Medical Programs. July 2023. p 3.

[2] Jorm, C and Roberts, C. 'Using complexity Theory to Guide Medical School Evaluations' Academic Medicine 9. Vol 93. No 3. March 2018