

Thinking beyond

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Budgeting for Research Transfer and Dissemination

The Cooperative Research Centre is committed to doing research that is used, so that it will contribute to improved Aboriginal health. This requires CRCATH researchers "**thinking beyond the project**" in order to promote the use of their research. Researchers may increase the chance of their research being used if they do certain things **before, during** and **after** the research project.

The promotion and dissemination of Aboriginal health research is not cheap. It requires planning, time, commitment and dedicated funding. Experience within the CRCATH is that researchers routinely underestimate the costs and time involved in the active promotion of their research.

CRCATH Approaches to Research Transfer

The CRCATH research application form asks researchers to identify and prioritise user groups, and to include a budget for research dissemination, communication and transfer.

About six months prior to the conclusion of the project, a meeting takes place between the Project Leader, the Program Leader and Research Transfer staff. The aim of this meeting is to develop a coherent transfer and dissemination plan for the project in the light of the emerging findings and conclusions.

These guidelines provide broad estimates of the costs and time involved in preparing various research outputs. They should be read in conjunction with *Thinking Beyond the Project 1: Promoting the Use of Research*, which lists the key research user groups within the Aboriginal health domain, along with preferred dissemination formats for each group.

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Research Report

A research report is the main document on a research project. Most research reports cover:

- Summary
- Introduction and background
- Method of Investigation
- Findings
- Discussion and Conclusions
- Recommendations

Where a report is aimed at health policy makers, planners and makers, additional effort needs to be made to draw out possible policy and practice implications of the research.

With concern for detail and validity, many researchers write reports of more than 100 pages. In today's world of information overload, it is unlikely that such long reports will be read in detail by most potential users. The CRCATH strongly recommends that researchers consult with research transfer staff and guidelines **BEFORE** commencing writing their research report.

Thinking beyond the project

The review and production of research reports is normally managed by the CRCATH research transfer team. Although reviewers are asked to provide reviews within 6 weeks, it usually takes longer than this. Authors then have the opportunity to edit their work in the light of reviewer comments. Sometimes substantial structural editing of the document can be undertaken at this stage. This can be time consuming.

Once the final document has been approved by the program leader and development committee, internal copy editing, design and layout and printing processes should take no more than a month. Printing costs vary according to the length of the report and the size of the print run. A research report of 30 pages, with a print run of 500, costs approximately \$3500 with a colour cover. A research report of 100 pages, with a print run of 500, costs approximately \$5000.

Local Language Materials

Interpreters should be properly paid in accordance with standard interpreter rates with a daily minimum of \$40.00 for up to 2 hours of work. Experience has shown that local language materials are best developed with skilled interpreters working with local groups in their own language. The development process for local language materials is complex and active: it involves much more than simply translating existing materials. Interpreters for many NT Aboriginal language groups can be accessed through the Aboriginal Interpreter Service, Ph: (08) 89244300. The service requires that the requesting organisation also pays travel and travel allowance costs for interpreters.

Flip Charts

Drawings and diagrams for flip charts can be produced in-house. A full colour and laminated flip chart of 20 pages costs approximately \$1400 for a production run of approximately only 30.

Community Meetings

Successful research meetings about research may require the payment of local language translators. Travel and TA costs for key participants need to be taken into account. Depending on participants, a community meeting can cost up to \$5000.

Videos

Video production work can be undertaken in-house through the MSHR multimedia unit. If a video is being considered as a way of communicating research

findings to user groups, it is essential that detailed discussion with multimedia staff begins early in the planning process. The time and costs involved in high quality video production are frequently underestimated by researchers, particularly if the video is to be culturally appropriate. Experience has shown that a 10 minute video produced in-house, but filmed in a remote community, can take as long as 6 months and costs up to \$5000. This cost includes travel associated with pre-production research, location and filming expenses and post-production expenses. Extra copies of the release print on VHS are NOT included. If the video is to be promoted in academic institutions and BRACS, it is possible that more than 100 copies of the master may be necessary. Copy costs are approximately \$20 per video.

Official publication launch

Planning for successful launches of publications with associated media coverage is managed by the CRCATH research transfer function, and can take several weeks. Costs are usually borne by the transfer function.

CRCATH Occasional Papers

Occasional paper covers are standardized and pre-printed. A 30 page occasional paper with a print run of 500 costs approximately \$2500.

Workshops

A paid external facilitator can charge up to \$1500 per day, and payment for planning and consultation time may also be necessary. Other costs include venue and audio-visual equipment hire, and travel and TA for participants. A one-day workshop can cost up to \$20000, and can take several weeks to prepare.

Conference Presentations

Presentations on CRCATH research at relevant professional conferences may be funded by the CRCATH Education and Training function. (Refer Application for Studies Assistance guidelines on CRCATH website.) Funding priority is given to researchers who are presenting a paper or poster on their work at the conference.

Roadshow Briefings

Research projects with findings which have the potential to contribute significantly to important funding and policy decisions may sometimes require a carefully designed regional or national tour to discuss/present to key stakeholders. Costs vary according to the location and number of key stakeholders.