

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AIC 2016: #122

1. Title:

Implementation Science or Art: theory based practice, or practice based theory?

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3. Key Words:

Action-research, Pacific Leaders, Policy Reform, Coalition-building

4. Abstract text:

a. Background and Aims

This paper will explore the relationship between the findings of an international research partnership - the Developmental Leadership Program (DLP) - and an international development program - the Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) attempting to put some of these findings into practice.

b. Methods

This paper provides a summary of four action research case studies exploring the practice of coalition formation in the Pacific and their effectiveness, how this is supported and the degree to which this practice is consistent with research findings.

c. Results

The paper suggests that whilst effective practice is often consistent with, and informed by the broader research findings of DLP, there are important differences that a careful examination of practice implementation reveals.

d. Conclusion

The cycle of research into practice (implementation science) is incomplete if the ongoing understanding of what the 'craft' of real world practice is not iteratively related back to research findings, and middle level theory. Furthermore a more acute understanding of practice - as a starting point for research - can often provide important insights into how ongoing research is framed and designed.