



Australian Government
Department of Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

- Health Care Homes
 - Academia & Bureaucracy – an insider's view
-

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Health Care Homes

- Key components: continuity of care, multidisciplinary team, care coordination
- Staged implementation
- Primary Health Network regions, variety of contexts
 - Perth North
 - Northern Territory
 - Adelaide
 - Country SA
 - Brisbane North
 - Western Sydney
 - Nepean Blue Mountains
 - Hunter New England and Central Coast
 - South Eastern Melbourne
 - Tasmania



Health Care Homes

- Around 200 HCHs
- Services for up to 65,000 people with two or more chronic and complex conditions.
- Services will commence from 1 July 2017.
- Implementation Advisory Group and four supporting Working Groups
- SW opinion: Opportunity for student involvement

Remote Academic to Canberra Bureaucrat





Bureaucracy and Academia - Similarities

- Motivated to improve society
- Skills in writing, analysis and synthesis of information
- Own language
 - The House
 - IDC
- Own explicit and implicit (hidden curriculum) codes of conduct



Observations on bureaucracy

- Timing, hierarchies & the foxtrot

- “Newton’s” Third Law of policy

Every new policy will have an equal and opposite predictable reaction

- “Newton’s” Fourth Law of policy

Every new policy may have an equal and opposite unpredictable reaction. Skilful policy makers use their contextual understanding (and crystal ball) to predict these reactions





Comparisons

Academia

- Improve society by publishing new knowledge
- Publish certainty
- Aims for decisions based on evidence
- Freedom of expression

Bureaucracy

- Improve society by applying new knowledge
- Juggle & predict uncertainty within a complex system
- Aims for decisions based on evidence within hierarchical structure
- Express government policy



What would I do differently as an academic?

- Plan more dissemination time in any project
- Write up research for different audiences
 - Academic Journals
 - Policy Makers e.g. CRCs policy summaries in APHCRI funded projects
 - Consumers e.g. Cochrane Collaboration
- Consistent message to Minister and staff
- For Policy
 - 1,3,25
 - Consider broader contextual factors