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By Anne Kavanagh, Helen Dickinson, Nancy Baxter.
Published online October 18, 2021 by InIsight+.

Other than prioritising people with disability, Australia has comprehensively failed to meet ethical and equitable vaccine allocation for people with disability, according to internationally accepted

In theory, Australia could get these workers from anywhere, but the greatest opportunities lie in the
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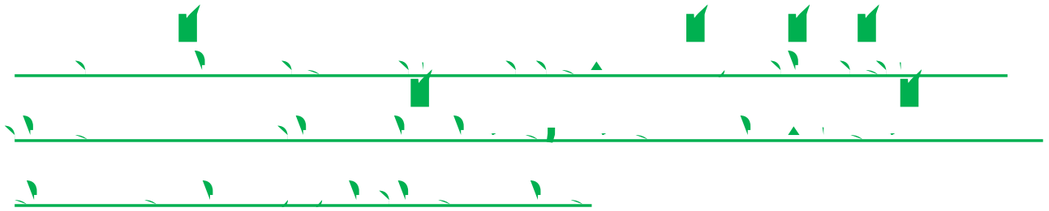

By Helen Dickinson, Catherine Smith & Sophie Yates.
Published online September 30, 2021 by The Conversation.

This week the Disability Royal Commission highlighted several failings in ensuring people with

However, there are some areas where things have worked.

;NHYTWNF MFX F INXFGNQNY^ QNFNXTS TK*HJW XJW[NHJ YMFY XJJPX YT QNSP ZU UJTUQJ \NYM INXFGNQNY^ \NYM appropriate vaccination experiences. One parent explained:

-RMXMEPP] LEH XLMW GLEPPIRKI YRXMP - [EW QEHI E[EVI SJ XLI :MG (MWEFMPMX] 0MEMWSR WYTTSVX JSV '3:-(

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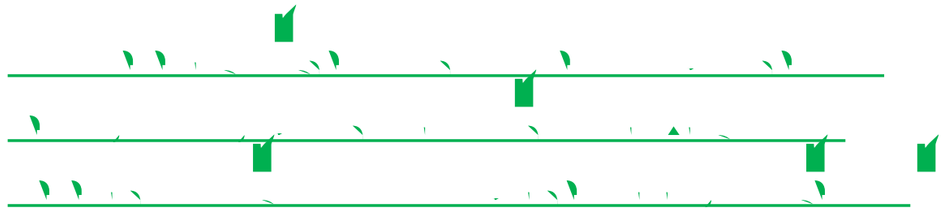
Exploratory questions:

- <MFY RJYMTIX TK IFYF HTQQJHYNTS MF[J GJJS ZXJI$ -T\ \J YMJ^ OZXYN*JI$
- What sampling strategies were adopted and why?
- -T\ INI YMJ WJXJFWHMJWX NIJSYNK^ FSI WJ+JHY GNFX NS IJXNLSNSL FSI NRUQJRJSYNSL YMJ WJXJFWHM$
- Who determines whether the methods, results and truth claims are valid?
- What criteria were used to assess the quality of the truth claims?



By Deborah Blackman & Sophie Yates.
Published online September 8, 2021 by The Mandarin.

With some colleagues from ANU and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, we have been thinking about how to demonstrate hidden value in complex dynamic public service systems.

To break that down a bit more, what we mean is how can people in certain types of roles and

The Doherty-led COVID-19 vaccination modelling is cited as justifying the federal government's
â Y F W L J Y 9 M J R T I J Q Q N S L W J U T W Y F H P S T \ Q J I L J X
particular attention should be paid to groups in whom socioeconomic, cultural and other determinants are anticipated to result in higher transmission and/or disease outcomes.

The Doherty Institute's director, Professor Sharon Lewin, emphasised that we need to achieve
â Y F W for all Australians including our most disadvantaged citizens.

- T \ J [J W Y M J R T I J Q N Y X J Q K I N I S T Y X U J H N * H F Q Q ^ J [F Q Z F Y J Y M J U T Y J S Y N F Q N R U F H Y T S W F Y J X I N S L W J U T W Y
3 T W â I T J X Y M J Commonwealth National Transition Plan focus on equity.

) N X F I [F S Y F L J I & Z X Y W F Q N F S X K F H J Y W N U Q J O J T U F W I ^ ^ Q T \ [F H H N S F Y N T S W F Y J X I N S L W J U T W Y F H P S T \ Q J I L J X
infected with COVID-19, and higher risks of serious disease and death from COVID-19.

9 M J X J W N X P K F H Y T W X F W J X N L S N * H F S Y N S I N [N I Z F Q Q ^ ' Z Y X T R J N S I N [N I Z F Q X K F H J Y W N U Q J O J T U F W I ^
disadvantage. Indigenous people, for example experience disability at a higher level than the general population. And people with mental health issues are over-represented in prisons.

Until now, we have relied on public health measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. If we relax these and move quickly to rely mainly on vaccination without ensuring equitable delivery, those most at risk will face a disproportionately greater burden of serious illness and death.

Thankfully, vaccine supply is improving. Australians are being vaccinated at unprecedented levels, particularly in NSW.

However, unless we explicitly move to an equity-based strategy for vaccination, "at risk" populations will be left even further behind.

Equitable allocation of vaccines requires:

1. I J * S N S L U W N T W N Y ^ L W T Z U X F S I L J T L W F U M N H F Q F W J F X
2. allocating an increased share of vaccines or vaccination appointments
3. tailoring outreach and communication
4. offering vaccinations close to or in workplaces and places where people live including private homes, aged-care facilities, and prisons
5. monitoring vaccination uptake
6. inclusion of vaccine targets for priority groups in the national plan.

Continuing our current strategy will mean that when we decide the time is right to "live with COVID", many people who should have been the highest priority for vaccination could die.

We demand a rethink of our vaccine strategy to have an explicit focus on equitable vaccine allocation. Otherwise, it's simply not "safe" for many Australians to come out of Morrison's proverbial cave.

By Alastair Stark and Sophie Yates.
Published online August 18, 2021 by Croakey.

Introduction by Croakey: Public inquiries are a frequent response to policy and systems failures, and the media and community concern that accompanies them.

Sometimes inquiries can uncover systemic problems undermining civil society and result in lasting legislative and policy changes.

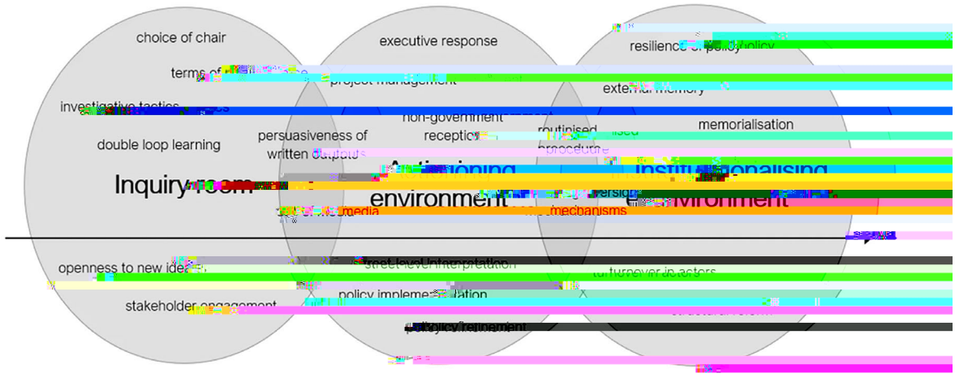
At other times, inquiries appear to go nowhere and leave stakeholder groups and advocates frustrated at the waste of time and resources that participation in these processes requires.

The reasons why some inquiries are effective while others sink into oblivion are discussed in the post below by Dr Alastair Stark, Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at the University of Queensland, and
) W 8 T U M N J > F Y J X 5 T X Y I T H Y T W F Q + J Q Q T \ F Y Y M J 5 Z G Q N H 8 J W [N H J 7 J X J
8 Y F W P F S I > F Y J X N I J S Y N K ^ Y M J P J ^ K F H Y T W X \ M N H M N S + Z J S H J Y M J J K K J H
some practical suggestions for setting up and running inquiries to maximise their chance of success.

Alastair Stark and Sophie Yates write:
Public inquiries are more popular than ever, and yet we often hear complaints that they don't have much effect on policy or practice.

Of course, all inquiries are different. Some vanish with barely a ripple, some make headlines for how little their recommendations are implemented, and some produce genuinely new learning
F S I â change the policy landscape for decades to come.

Despite the cynical rhetoric about public inquiries being used as political tools, history proves that governments



The ‘inquiry room’ includes those in the spotlight of public proceedings, the multitudes who operate in the backrooms of an inquiry and the stakeholders who give evidence. In this environment future legitimacy can be produced through reassuring stakeholders that the inquiry has been established in an appropriate manner, that it has the appropriate personnel and that it is generating data and

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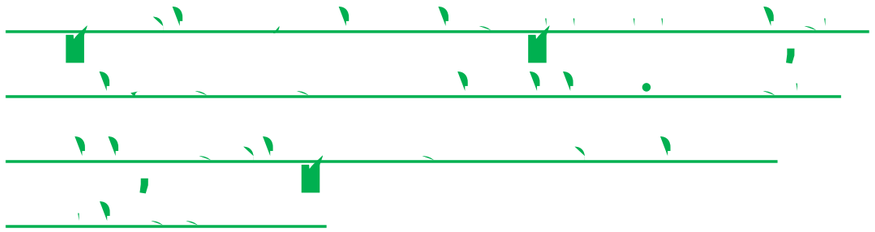

By Helen Dickinson and Anne Kavanagh.
Published online July 10, 2021 by The Conversation.

+ J I J W F Q X Y F Y J F S I Y J W W N R Y J T W T S I N X F N I F Q to debate a proposal to introduce independent assessments into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

In the face of sustained opposition, the federal government agreed not to make any legislative changes to the scheme and committed to consult on any future amendments.

Independent assessments were proposed as a new way of determining the functional level of an individual with disability, which would then be then used to inform what level of funding that person would receive.

Under the current system, people demonstrate this by gathering evidence from their own specialists.

The government has argued this is not fair, because those with greater means can bypass waiting lists in the public system and see private specialists. They also believe professionals known to an individual may be affected by "empathy bias", resulting in their clients ultimately being awarded larger funding packages.

Independent assessments would instead have seen people assessed by a government-contracted allied health professional unknown to them in a three-hour interview. This short assessment would have been used to determine what level of funding that person was entitled to.

While the government argued independent assessments were not about cost-cutting, leaked government documents suggested this system would lead to smaller funding packages "on average".

Discussions about the introduction of independent assessments started under the previous NDIS minister, Stuart Robert.

The proposal attracted strong backlash from the disability community who argued the assessments were dehumanising F S I \ T Z Q I Q J F I Y T N S F U U W T U W N F Y J U Q F S X \ N Y M F X N L S N * H F S Y W N X P T K traumatising participants.

The NDIS Joint Standing Committee received more than 320 submissions on the issue from a W F S L J N S I N [N I Z F Q X F I [T H F H ^ T W L F S N X F Y N T S X F H F I J R N H X F S I R T W J ^ Y M J [F X Y R F O T W N Y ^ T K \ M N H M \ J W J highly critical of the proposed assessments.

On taking over the NDIS portfolio in April, Linda Reynolds announced she intended to pause the rollout of independent assessments until further piloting was completed and evaluated, and she had an opportunity to consult with stakeholders across the country.

The National Disability Insurance Agency has recently been piloting independent assessments (the NDIA is the independent agency responsible for implementing the NDIS).

It asked for volunteers to undertake an assessment, offering to compensate participants with a A$150 payment.

The NDIA Research and Evaluation Branch this week released its interim report on the independent assessment pilot.

The evaluation sought to understand the experience of participants through the independent F X X J X X R J S Y U W T H J X X N S H Q Z I N S L \ M J Y M J W Y M J W J U T W Y F H H Z W F Y J Q ^ assessor and their functional capacity.

A second aim was to get feedback on the independent assessment tools used in the process, and whether these tools were collecting the right information.

Depending on the age group and disability type there are eight tools which can be used in various combinations. An example of one these tools is the WHODAS (World Health Organisation Disability Assessment Schedule), which explores how well an individual has been able to do certain activities with or without support (such as self-care and mobility).

While there are just under 450,000 NDIS participants, the pilot included a very small number of these.

Some 3,759 people across Australia took part in the pilot assessments, but of those, only 948 participants and support people provided survey responses which were analysed in the report.

More than 100 pilot participants were interviewed. And the evaluation also included surveys and interviews with assessors.

When we drilled down into the * L Z W J X K W T R Y M J X Z W [J ^, we found some concerning results. Less than hW3ervile eif9depenm0c2 (tied:]TJ 0 -1.24HODAS0051 gs 6.92f T* [<ilot inclu 651S.9 <</Actt)7Text (þÿ 0 0ses3GS0 a79004D004A0city.

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The NDIA has attempted to be more transparent with its evaluation and commissioned a University of Sydney team to provideindependent validation T K Y M J N W * S I N S L X

On the surface, this looked like a step forward for transparency. But this “validation” largely N S [T Q [J I â H M J H P N S L Y M J \ F ^ Y M J 3) . & F S F Q ^ X J I Y M J I F Y F ^ Y M J ^ \ J W J S T Y F X P J I Y T H W N Y N V Z J Y M J I J X N L S â T K Y M J J [F Q Z F Y N T S

The key question the disability community needed answering was whether independent assessments could be used to deliver funding packages that enabled participants to purchase reasonable and necessary services and supports that enabled them to live “ordinary” lives.

But this evaluation merely explored the experience of taking part in independent assessments; it didn’t answer this question. No participant was given a budget based on their results. No participant outcomes were measured.

By Ariella Meltzer, Helen Dickinson, Eleanor Malbon and Gemma Carey.
Published online June 23, 2021 by Evidence and Policy blog.

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The many faces of disability in evidence for policy and practice +YIWX)HMXIH F] 'EVSP 6MZEW -OYOS
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important for market stewardship? A proposed framework for why and how lived experience should
be included in stewarding disability markets‘.

Many countries are moving towards market-based provision of human services, with ‘quasi-markets’ in place. Quasi-markets are different to the conventional markets we are used to within our daily lives, as they require governments to play a role in helping to steer them to success. This is known as ‘market stewardship’. In ourEvidence & Policyarticle, we explore the types of evidence that government uses to make decisions about how quasi-markets should run.„ 041 ‚ ‚ ‚000 ‚ 5 ₫045₫4 00040 5 ₫A 004 05005 55 005300A 01140 5 5 ₫05300A 00 ₫05300A 00040 5 ₫55 ₫A 004 55 005300A 0 5 5 ₫0

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