



Evidence and  
Implementation  
Summit 2023  
9-11 October

Melbourne, Australia & Online



Behavioural and Implementation  
Science Interventions  
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine



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## #117 - Quality use of research in Australian schools and systems

### Presenting authors

Facilitator – Associate Professor Mark Rickinson<sup>1</sup>

Panel –

Researcher - Dr Jo Gleeson<sup>1</sup>

School Leader – Natalie Manser<sup>2</sup>

System leader – Narelle Struth<sup>3</sup>

Research Broker – Danielle Toon<sup>4</sup>

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### Country of residence

Australia

### Type of session

Panel

### Objectives/aims

International efforts to improve the use of research in education raise questions about what it means to use research *well*. While there has been long-standing debate about what counts as quality research, there has been very little dialogue about what counts as *quality use*. The Q Project is a five-year study to understand and improve the quality use of research in Australian schools. This panel session will bring together an educator, a system leader, a researcher and a research broker connected to the Q Project to discuss what quality use of research involves in schools and how it can be supported in systems. A key focus for the discussion will be exploring how to enact and enable quality use of research as a contextualised practice. Building on this point, the session will also consider what might be relevant to improving research use in other sectors and contexts.



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## Methods

This panel session will draw on the findings of the Q Project's surveys ( $n=1700$ ) and interviews ( $n=29$ ) with Australian teachers and school leaders, and surveys with system leaders ( $n=158$ ). It will involve inputs from:

- (i) a researcher about quality use as of research an aspiration;
- (ii) a school leader about quality use of research as a practice;
- (iii) a system leader about quality use of research as a system; and
- (iv) a research broker about implications for other sectors and contexts.

Following the inputs from the Q Project researcher, school leader and system leader, participants will have the opportunity to reflect in small groups and put questions to the panel, before a closing discussion led by the research broker about the potential implications of quality use of research for other sectors and contexts.

## Main findings

Drawing on teachers' and school leaders' survey and interview responses, the Q Project has conceptualised and empirically validated a Quality Use of Research Evidence (QURE) Framework for education. The Q Project researcher will explain this framework and share findings gained from educators about key enablers of quality use of research in schools. The Q Project school and system leaders will then describe the utility of this framework in their educational practice and organisational contexts and suggest important supports for quality use of research at both school and system levels. These inputs will highlight how quality use of research can be practised in different ways depending on the nature and scale of the context. Responses to the QURE Framework to date suggest that it has potential relevance for other sectors and contexts and the research broker will discuss the question of wider implications as a conclusion to the session.