



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health Practice
Chinese Medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical Radiation Practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Strategies for risk-based regulatory research

- potential opportunities for the
physiotherapy regulatory community

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Chair, Physiotherapy Board of Australia

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Overview

1. Introduction
 - Research and risk-based regulation
2. Strategic Context
3. Our Research Framework
4. Lessons learned (...so far!)
5. Potential international opportunities

My Background

- Clinician
- Regulator
- Researcher
- AHPRA Research Evaluation Committee

Objective

1. To describe our experiences in developing a regulatory research framework linked to our corporate strategy
2. To explore the potential for an international physiotherapy regulatory research framework

Research and Risk-based Regulation



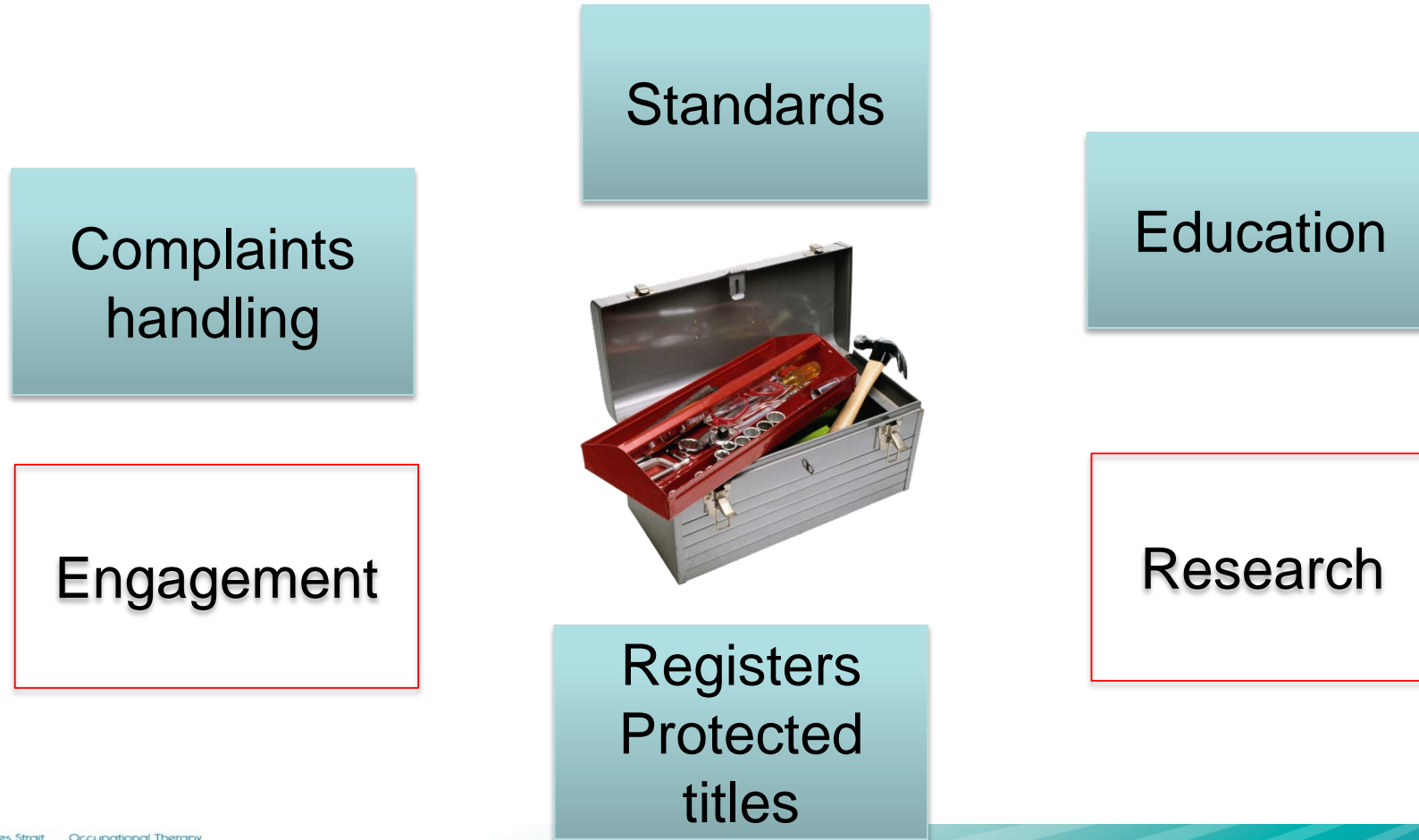
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What does it mean to be a risk-based regulator...?

- Dr Anna van der Gaag (IAMRA “Lifting our Gaze”):
 - Focus on identifying and reducing risks and harms
 - Selective action based on identified risks
 - Targeting resources where risks are higher
 - **Evidence based regulatory action**
 - Using innovative practices to prevent harm
 - Reducing the costs and burden of regulation

Expanding the tools of regulation



NRAS Strategy 2015-2020

Vision

We are recognised as a leading risk-based regulator enabling a competent and flexible health workforce to meet the current and future health needs of the Australian community.

Mission

To protect the public by regulating health practitioners efficiently and effectively in the public interest to facilitate access to safer healthcare.

Strategic outcomes

1. Reduced risk of harm to the public associated with the practice of regulated health professions.
2. Assurance that registered health practitioners are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner.
3. Increased public confidence in the effective and efficient regulation of health practitioners.
4. Increased public benefit from the use of our data for practitioner regulation, health workforce planning and research.
5. Improved access to healthcare through our contribution to a more sustainable health workforce.

Our guiding principles

Our *Regulatory principles* underpin the work of the National Boards and AHPRA. They guide our decision making.



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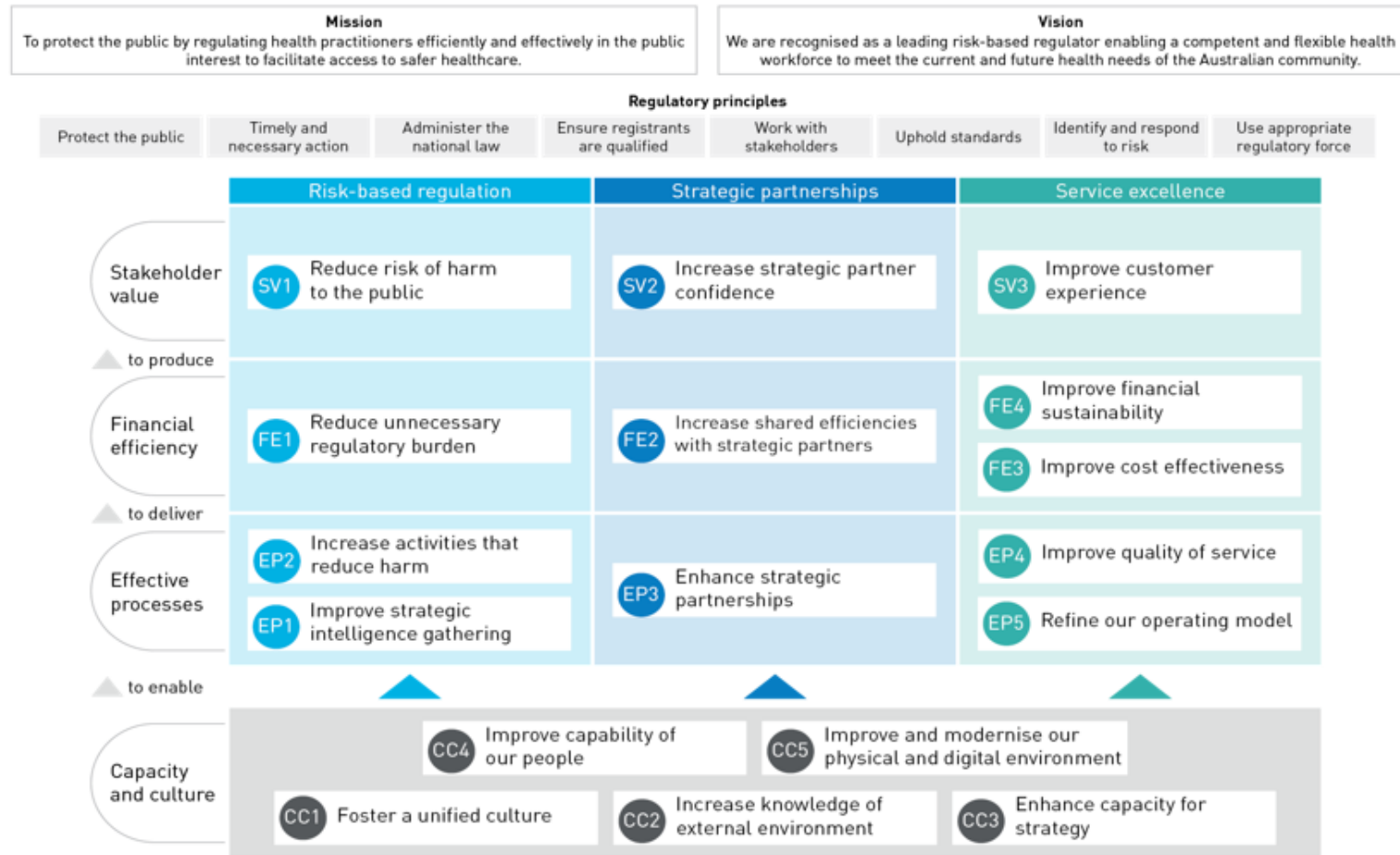
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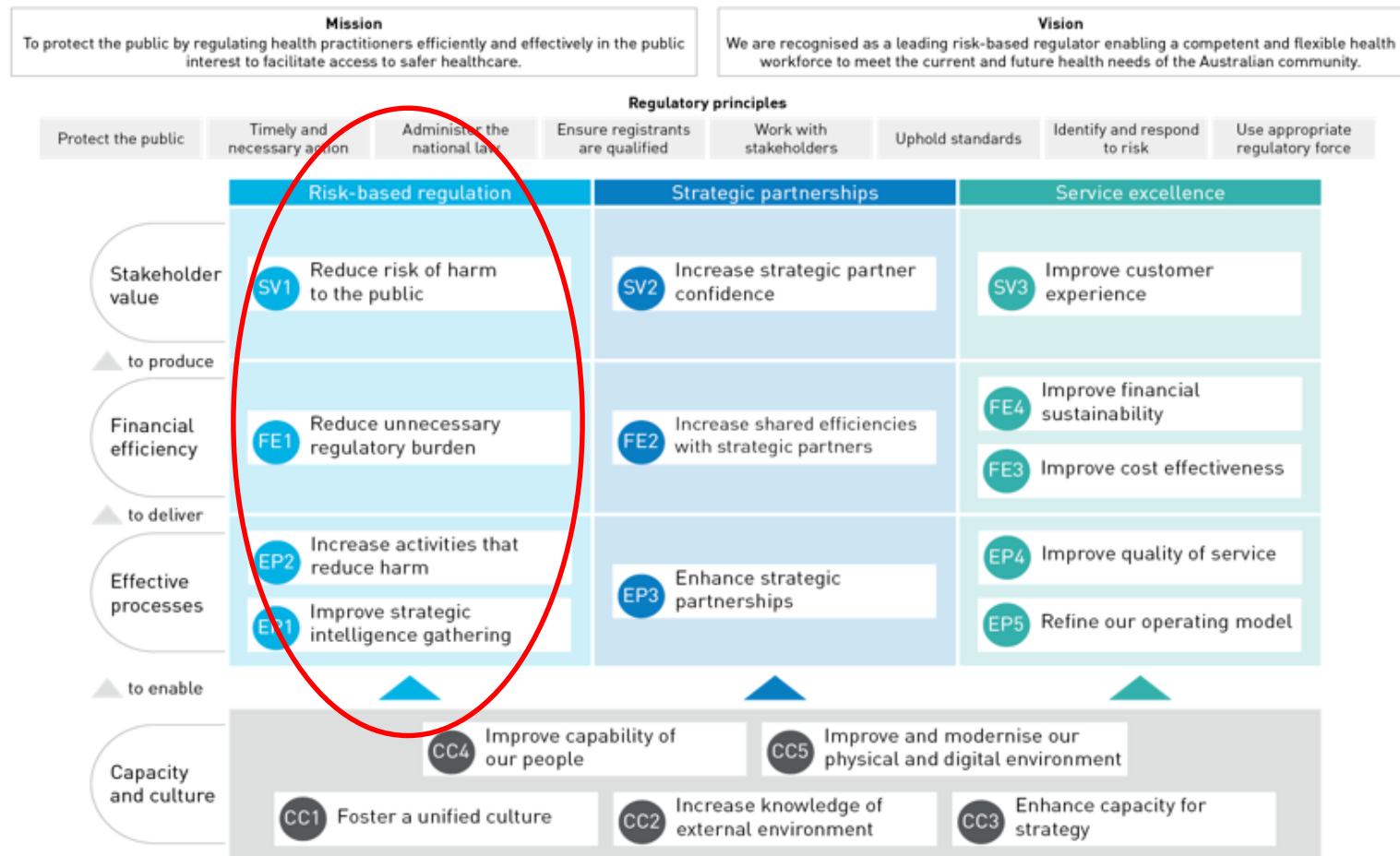
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Strategy Implementation Map



Strategy Implementation Map



EP2: Increase activities that reduce harm

- Narrative
 - Identify and assess risks of harm to the public
 - Refine and expand our regulatory toolkit to include more preventative and collaborative actions to reduce risk
 - Apply targeted interventions within our mandate to address “hotspots of risk”
- Draft measure
 - %risk reduction initiatives in National Board’s regulatory plans
- Draft target
 - TBD

Draft Research Framework

- Requested by AHPRA's Management Board (March 2016)
- Consultation with all key entities across the scheme
- Two components:
 - Principles
 - Priorities
- Scheme-wide applicability
- To be externally published and regularly updated

Draft Research Principles

- 15 principles to guide the use of data to inform policy and decision making.
- Definitions: research, evaluation, quality assurance
- Informed by:
 - National Law
 - Relevant other law/ethical guidelines – Privacy Act, National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
 - Published documents from other regulators (e.g.: HCPC, GMC)

DRAFT PRINCIPLES

Alignment to scheme priorities	Conflicts of interest
Regulatory purpose	Governance
Research merit	Peer Review
Research integrity	Data security/management
Justice, beneficence, respect	Dissemination
Ethics (HREC where relevant)	Publication/reports
Privacy	Authorship
Risks/benefits	



Draft Research Priorities

- To focus our research efforts, both internal and external, to maximise the benefits to the scheme.
- A clear statement on our priority interests
- Not a static document
- 6 draft areas:
 - Defining risks and harms
 - Regulatory taxonomy
 - Risk factors for notifications/poor performance
 - Evidence for standards/codes and guidelines
 - Workforce distribution/sustainability
 - Work readiness

Draft Priorities (cont.)

Research Area/Sub-Area	Potential INDICATIVE research questions	Alignment to NRAS Strategic Objectives	Strategic Value	Potential to result in regulatory change	Current NRAS Issues	Priority Rating
1. Define Harms and Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we define harms and risks? What are the characteristics and prevalence of vexatious complaints about health practitioners? 	SV1, EP2, EP1	High	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Djerriwarrh – data sharing, Regulatory Compacts Improve notifications performance – NRAS, KPMG Reviews Vexatious complaints 	Very High
2. Regulatory Taxonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the essential fields for coding in our multi-professional notifications taxonomy? What are the essential profession-specific fields to be included in the notifications taxonomy? 	SV1, EP2, EP1	High	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Djerriwarrh – data sharing, regulatory compacts Improve notifications performance – NRAS, KPMG Reviews 	Very High
3. Risk factors for notifications/poor performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key risk factors for notifications in the national scheme? What protective factors (related to practitioner behaviours/attributes) could be used by national boards to mitigate risks? 	SV1, SV2, FE2, EP2	Very High	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve notifications performance – NRAS, KPMG Reviews 	Very High

Lessons learned (...so far!)

- Consult widely
- Be prepared for diverse views
- Broad themes/specific questions
- Flexibility to changing circumstances
- The journey is more important than the destination!

Potential International Opportunities

- Bigger datasets
- Answer common questions
 - Mobility
 - Risk
 - Human capital/resource management (see later)
- Shared work effort
- Shared learnings
- Greater impact locally and globally

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Questions



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