Program Logic for Comprehensive Primary Health Care Services

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A program logic model allows you to tell the ‘story’ of a project by logically connecting the starting points for a program – what you know about the issue, the population, the intervention – with the desired outcomes.

Program logic is

‘a plausible and sensible model of how a program is supposed to work’
(Bickman, 1987, p. 5).

Develops a picture of:
- *how* your program does its work
- *why* it does it in particular ways
- *what* you expect to achieve
The program logic cycle

**Beginnings**
*If our foundation of evidence, theory, values and assumptions is sound…*

**Planned Work**
*then the activities we plan to do which build on this foundation…*

**Intended Results**
Should lead, or contribute, to the results we expect based on this foundation…

(if not)

‘The program logic approach

tracks a **theoretical causal pathway** where desired **outcomes** such as improved health status and wellbeing are premised on the generation of certain **impacts**, such as changes in modifiable risk and protective factors operating in individuals and environments.

These impacts are premised on **changes in processes and/or structures** such as improved capacity and higher quality or better coordination of services and programs.

In turn, the implementation of new processes and structures requires a range of **inputs or activities** such as supporting policy directions, workforce development and funding.

These chains of inputs and effects take place in a wider social and political **context** that mediates the effectiveness of all elements.’

and makes clear the relationship of such a model to evaluation,

‘if **empirical evidence of change** can be seen for each of the points along the continuum, then it can be reasonably predicted that the outcomes are at least in part attributable to the program’

Dwyer, Silburn and Wilson 2004:12
The program logic argument

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A Space for Action

Mechanisms Context

Outputs: Service Qualities

The relationship between structure and agency
Some reflections from us

> Inclusive process
> Involvement of managers and practitioners
> Aware of the difficult context for some sites

> Moves program logic from being linear and planned to a more dynamic tool
> Provides a theoretical perspective to program logic
Contact us

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