



# Evidence review: a fast and accurate summary of the latest health evidence

## What is an evidence review?

A Sax Institute evidence review is a concise summary of health evidence, on your specific issue, presented in an easy-to-read format.

Evidence reviews are designed to take the hard work out of evidence gathering. Our team of experts will work with you to understand which questions you need answered, then draw on the most relevant peer-reviewed research to provide a fast and accurate review of the latest health evidence.

The Sax Institute has produced over 350 evidence reviews to support a range of decisions in health and social services, policies and programs.

## How does it work?

Evidence reviews are tailored to the individual needs of policy and program agencies, and follow a simple three-step process:

1. Our experienced knowledge brokers work with you to refine your issue into researchable questions
2. We source expert researchers to gather the best-quality evidence from around the world, tapping into the Sax Institute's 58 member organisations and an extensive database of specialised researchers
3. Evidence is summarised into a policy-friendly, easy-to-read format with high-level findings.

## Why choose an evidence review?

Evidence reviews are ideal for informing the development or revision of policies or programs, providing evidence to support funding decisions, and even revealing gaps in the current evidence. They can also support communications of evidence to other stakeholders.

“Our Evidence Check was brilliantly executed by the Sax Institute in terms of being timely, thorough, and targeted. We were really happy with the work and have since used it very extensively.”

Bureau of Health Information

## What are the options?

We offer two types of evidence reviews. The review you choose will depend on your purpose, time frame and budget. Our team can guide you on the most appropriate review to meet your agency's needs.

### Evidence Check

**What's involved:** A detailed analysis of recent literature to address specific questions

**Report length:** 30-50 pages

**Preparation time:** 3-4 months

**Includes:**

- Executive summary
- High-level summary of key findings
- Detailed analysis of included papers
- Summary of individual papers
- Data extraction tables for peer-reviewed literature
- Data extraction tables for grey literature
- Quality appraisal of included peer-reviewed papers
- Synthesis of included papers
- Analysis of findings
- Implications for policy or practice (if required)

**Excludes:**

- Interviews with stakeholders.

### Evidence Snapshot

**What's involved:** A rapid review of the most recent high-level literature to address one question

**Report length:** 3-5 pages

**Preparation time:** 2-3 weeks

**Includes:**

- High-level summary of key findings
- Data extraction table for peer-reviewed literature
- Summary table for grey literature

**Excludes:**

- Detailed analysis of included papers
- Quality assessment of included papers
- Summary of individual papers
- Synthesis of individual papers
- Analysis of findings
- Implications for policy or practice
- Incorporation of agency feedback
- Professional editing.

## About the Sax Institute

The Sax Institute is an independent, not-for-profit organisation and a national leader in driving the use of research evidence in policies and programs to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians.

## Find out more

To discuss your evidence needs, please contact the Sax Institute Knowledge Exchange team.

**Visit:** [saxinstitute.org.au/evidence-review](https://saxinstitute.org.au/evidence-review)

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