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Research program: incontinence measurement

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Research program: incontinence measurement

Abstract

Incontinence is a common health problem estimated to affect almost 4 million Australians. However, because of the personal nature of this problem, we know very little about the best way to measure patient symptoms and treatment outcomes. This research program attempts to redress this imbalance by applying psychometric methods to the assessment of this health condition and social phenomenon. In doing so we are also examining quality of life post-treatment, as well as patient satisfaction with the health services provided. The steps in this research program have involved systematically reviewing and evaluating instruments used internationally for the assessment of incontinence, and then field testing a number of these in an Australian community survey (N=3015). Following an examination of the psychometric properties of the items and scales two new instruments to assess incontinence were developed. These are the Revised Urinary Incontinence Scale and the Revised Faecal Incontinence Scale. The community survey data indicated that both measures have excellent psychometric properties and these measures are currently being trialled and further validated in clinical settings. A number of patient satisfaction measures (both generic and continence specific) were studied in a cross-sectional survey of women who had treatment for urinary incontinence (N=184). The psychometric properties of these measures were examined as was their coverage of seven dimensions of patient satisfaction (Donabedian, 1988). The Short Assessment of Patient Satisfaction scale (SAPS; seven items) was developed from consideration of both the psychometric properties of the items and the best fit to the model of patient satisfaction.

Keywords

research, measurement, incontinence, program

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Research program: Incontinence measurement

Nick Marosszeky and Jan Sansoni

Conference Theme: Measuring Social Phenomena

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Social innovation and financial innovation: Good intentions can go awry

Eduardo Pol

Conference Theme: Social Innovation and Business Innovation

This paper clarifies the general relationship between social innovation and business innovation with particular regard to financial innovation and points out that not all social innovations are desirable in and of themselves. Widely held conventional wisdom is that social innovation is the prime mover of social progress. For example, the financial innovation known as 'microfinance' created by Mohammad Yunus benefited many of the poorest people on earth. However, just because an innovator has come up with a new idea with potential to improve human well-being does not mean that it will in fact succeed in attaining that goal. In this paper I demonstrate that conventional wisdom cannot be used as a blanket vindication of social innovation. Specifically, I contest the general belief that social innovation is an end in itself by providing a smoking gun in the form of a counterexample, namely the sub-prime mortgage innovation. If the US housing bubble 2001-08 can be attributed to a single cause, it was the sub-prime mortgage innovation.

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The emergence of the 'fourth sector' and the channelling of business innovation for social benefit

Peter Quarmby and David Fuller

Conference Theme: Social Innovation and Business Innovation

This presentation deals with the sector consistent of not-for profit organizations (sometimes referred to as 'fourth sector'). We will characterize this sector and examine its relationship to other sectors. Case studies will be used to highlight how business innovation can influence and drive the response of fourth sector organisations to opportunities for significant benefits for all stakeholders. Our main claim is that the 'fourth sector' plays a critical enabling role in the diffusion of innovative business practices with pervasive social benefits.

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