The CREATE Critical Appraisal Tool: Establishing The Validity, Reliability And Feasibility Of A Tool To Appraise Research From Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Perspective

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Abstract

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findings in systematic reviews of qualitative evidence was proposed for the Joanna Briggs Institute’s meta-
synthesis by meta-aggregation, and the GRADE Confidence in the Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative research
(GRADE-CERQual) approach for assessing confidence in qualitative evidence syntheses findings was designed for
syntheses of qualitative evidence.

**Objectives:** To provide a principled and pragmatic critique of the ConQual and GRADE-CERQual approaches and
offer suggestions for their improvement.

**Methods:** Assessment of ConQual and GRADE-CERQual approaches informed by a critical review of the
methodological literature on the quality criteria used in qualitative research and on the conduct of systematic
reviews of qualitative research, and by insights from hermeneutics and American pragmatism philosophy.

**Results:** Potentially serious flaws may be evident in both the ConQual and GRADE-CERQual approaches when
evaluated critically from theoretical, philosophical, and practical perspectives. These flaws appear to be related to
the conceptualisation of the nature of confidence in qualitative research and of the aim of establishing confidence
in synthesised findings in syntheses of qualitative research, the selection of criteria for establishing confidence,
the justification provided for these criteria, and the operationalisation of the criteria.

**Conclusions:** Based upon our assessment, we suggest that both ConQual and GRADE-CERQual should be revised.
We provide suggestions for correcting the identified flaws.

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**The CREATE Critical Appraisal Tool: A Tool To Appraise Research From Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives**


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**Background:** In health research, systematic reviews are widely used to guide decision makers towards
implementing best practice in policy and healthcare. Systematic reviews that assess and synthesise the best-
available evidence on questions relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community priorities can help
improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. However, the criteria represented in standard critical-
appraisal tools are grounded in Western notions of research quality, and do not incorporate indigenous
methodologies or criteria that assess research from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to develop and trial a tool with unique criteria for assessing the quality of
research from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective.

**Methods:** Senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers, together with ethicists and systematic
review experts, developed a tool and a user guide over a 2-year period, using a combination of literature reviews
and interactive group work. A modified Delphi method was used to assess the face validity, reliability and
feasibility of the tool. An Australian panel comprising senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers
critiqued the tool and made recommendations for improvements. Systematic reviewers then trialled the tool for
reliability and feasibility. Results and

**Conclusions:** The outcome of the study is a tool that aligns with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values and
indigenous methodologies that provide critical appraisal of research through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lens, which can be used in conjunction with existing critical-appraisal tools. The tool will also be useful for
promoting credible and ethical primary research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Thus
increasing the quality of the health research conducted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, its
translation into policy and practice and, ultimately, health outcomes.

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**Quality ratings of reviews in overviews: a comparison of reviews with and without dual (co-)authorship**