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Presentation by Dr Adam Graycar, Executive Director, Cabinet Office, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, June 2006.

"Demographic changes and health equity"

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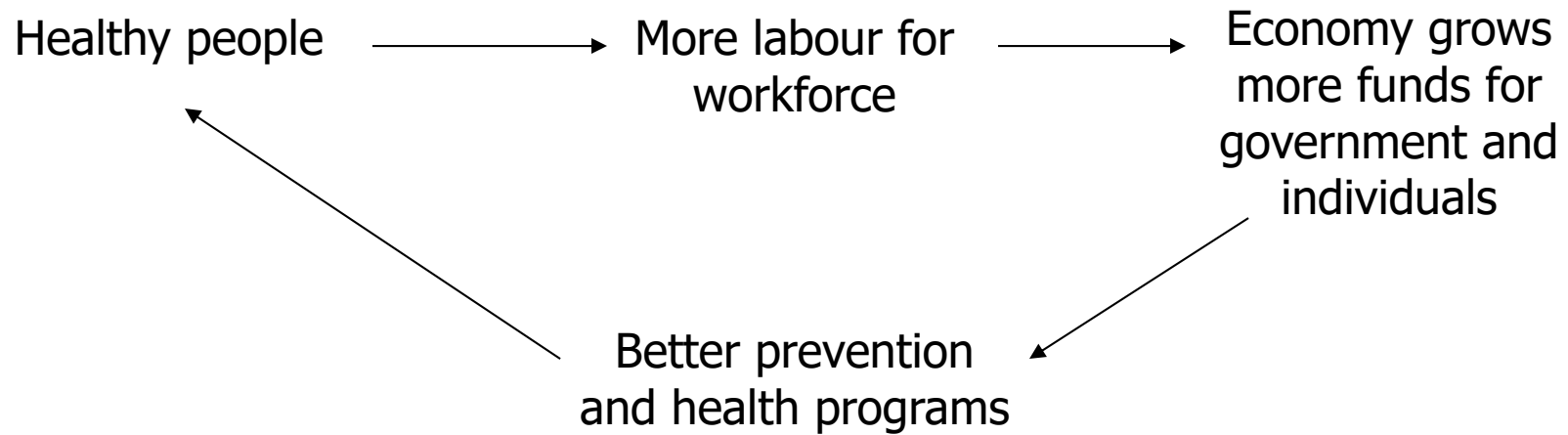
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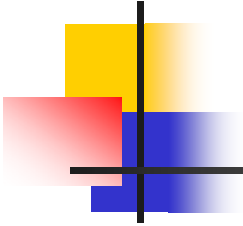




# Messages

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1. Always distinguish conditions and problems
2. Understand the data that informs your policy and progress, and be on top of it



- What is progress?
- What characterises progress?
- What indicators can be used to assess progress?



# Making policy research relevant

- We need research which provides clear evidence of what works, where and why
- We need to better understand the political context within which policy is developed
- We need to better understand the culture of the practitioner



# Policy Influenced by

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- Politics
- Budget
- Precedent
- Media
- Pressure Groups
- Legislation
- *Research*



# Practice Influenced by

- Policy
- Local budget
- Manager/leader
- Performance Regime
- Training
- Culture
- *Research*
- Legislation
- Local media
- Local expectations





# Ministers want

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- Good news
- Confidence in results
- Costs included in evaluations
- Involvement in agenda setting
- Timely results
- To know what works
- Willingness to make inferences



# Practitioners want

- To know what works and why
- Help in replicating what works
- Help in generating testable hypotheses
- Timely research
- Involvement in agenda setting
- Plain English
- To know of current good practice
- Feedback on the results of research



# Four common instruments

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- Advocacy
- Money
- Direct government action
- Law



# Messages

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1. Always distinguish conditions and problems
2. Understand the data that informs your policy and progress, and be on top of it
3. Political decisions are made on the basis of political factors – research is a contributor, not a driver
4. Be one step ahead of the game, and understand the necessary dynamics
5. If a piece of string has one end, then it has another end
6. Identify and understand the most relevant policy instruments for each circumstance