

What is Living Evidence? A summary of the Alive Learning Forum session on Living Evidence Guidelines (March 2025)

During the Alive Learning Forum held in March 2025, we explored the concept and implementation of living evidence guidelines, with a presentation by Heath White from Monash University's Australian Living Evidence Collaboration (<https://au.linkedin.com/in/heath-white-86612891>). The session explored the practicalities of developing and maintaining living guidelines, their benefits, challenges, and potential impact on decision-making.

Key Points Discussed:

1. Introduction to Living Evidence Guidelines

- Traditional guidelines are often outdated due to long update cycles.
- Living evidence guidelines ensure continuous updates based on new research and provide adaptability to new policy and practice changes.

2. Processes and Implementation

- Living evidence helps prioritise recommendations based on evolving evidence needs.
- Using automated searches and data integration can streamline updates.
- Technology, including platforms like Cochrane RevMan and MAGICapp, is supporting real-time updates.

3. Panel and Stakeholder Engagement

- Panels need to remain active beyond initial publication to review new evidence.
- Continuous stakeholder feedback is crucial for refining guidelines.
- Flexibility in participation and communication helps maintain engagement.

4. Funding Challenges and Sustainability

- Funding remains a significant challenge, with guidelines often discontinued due to resource constraints.
- There is a need for long-term financial support from government and institutions.
- Strategies to maintain funder engagement over extended periods.

5. Impact and Dissemination

- Consideration needs to be given to ensure practitioners are aware of the guidelines.
- Evaluating the real-world impact of living guidelines on decision-making.
- Potential for improved healthcare outcomes through timely updates of evidence.

Conclusion: The meeting reinforced the value of living evidence guidelines in maintaining up-to-date, evidence-based recommendations. The approach offers greater adaptability and relevance but requires sustainable funding and structured stakeholder engagement. The discussion also highlighted the need for further impact assessment and wider adoption within the medical and research community.

Find out more

The recordings of the session can be accessed here: **Recording:** [Here](#)

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Any questions? Reach out at hello@aliveevidence.org