

## 18. For What and for Whom?

The purpose of the question ‘*What is the integrated research support aiming to achieve and who is intended to benefit?*’ is to help teams move beyond general (often fuzzy) ideas about the impact they want to see towards a clearer assessment of who might benefit from their research findings and how to best transmit these results to that target policy or practice audience.

The intention of this question is to help integrative applied research teams clarify the objectives of their implementation activities, not to force them to take a strong position. Indeed integrative applied research teams will not always have a clear view about what the impact of their research findings should be, nor will they necessarily want to use their research as a basis for engaging in intense political or other action. Instead the question can help teams figure out how their work can be made useful by determining which policy makers or practitioners are likely to find insights from the research valuable, as well as working out how best to make those people aware of the findings.

Beneficiaries are the targets of the research support—in other words, those who can put the integrated research findings into action in producing policy or practice change. Integrative applied research teams need to decide which arenas—one or more of government, business and civil society—are most relevant, as well as which particular organisations, departments and individuals are best able to use their findings.

<b>Task for the I2S Development Drive</b>
Compile case examples demonstrating: a) different ways of describing the purpose of providing integrated research support for policy and practice change (including with and without strong views about the desired impact), b) the contribution to the overarching research aims, and c) the beneficiaries (that is, which perspectives were included).

This text is taken from *Disciplining Interdisciplinarity: Integration and Implementation Sciences for Researching Complex Real-World Problems*, by Gabriele Bammer, published 2013 by ANU E Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.