

# How much has PHC research contributed to the current health reform process?

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# Outline

- PHCRED strategy focus on research that can inform policy and practice
- Three national health reform initiatives offered unusual opportunity in 2008-09
- What we did
- What we found
- Discussion



# PHCRED strategy focuses on research that can inform policy and practice

- PHCRED Strategy Goals

- More research relevant to practice and policy
- In collaboration with other relevant organisations well informed primary health care practice

[www.phcris.org.au/phcred/strategic\\_plan.php](http://www.phcris.org.au/phcred/strategic_plan.php)

- NHMRC emphasis

- Influencing and supporting the infusion of evidence from research into improving the actions of health professionals and the health care system and into public policies

NHMRC Strategic plan 2007-09



# Three national health reform initiatives offered unusual opportunity in 2008-09

- Information was publicly available about and from:
  - National Health and Hospital reform Commission
  - National Primary Health Care Strategy
  - Preventative Health Taskforce?
- Opportunity for PHC RIS to examine what contribution PHC research and researchers made to the first stages of the reform process



# We counted.....

- How many PHC researchers were
  - on national working groups
  - authors of commissioned papers or submissions
- How many references to primary health care research were cited in
  - Discussion documents, interim reports, commissioned papers, submissions and final reports.



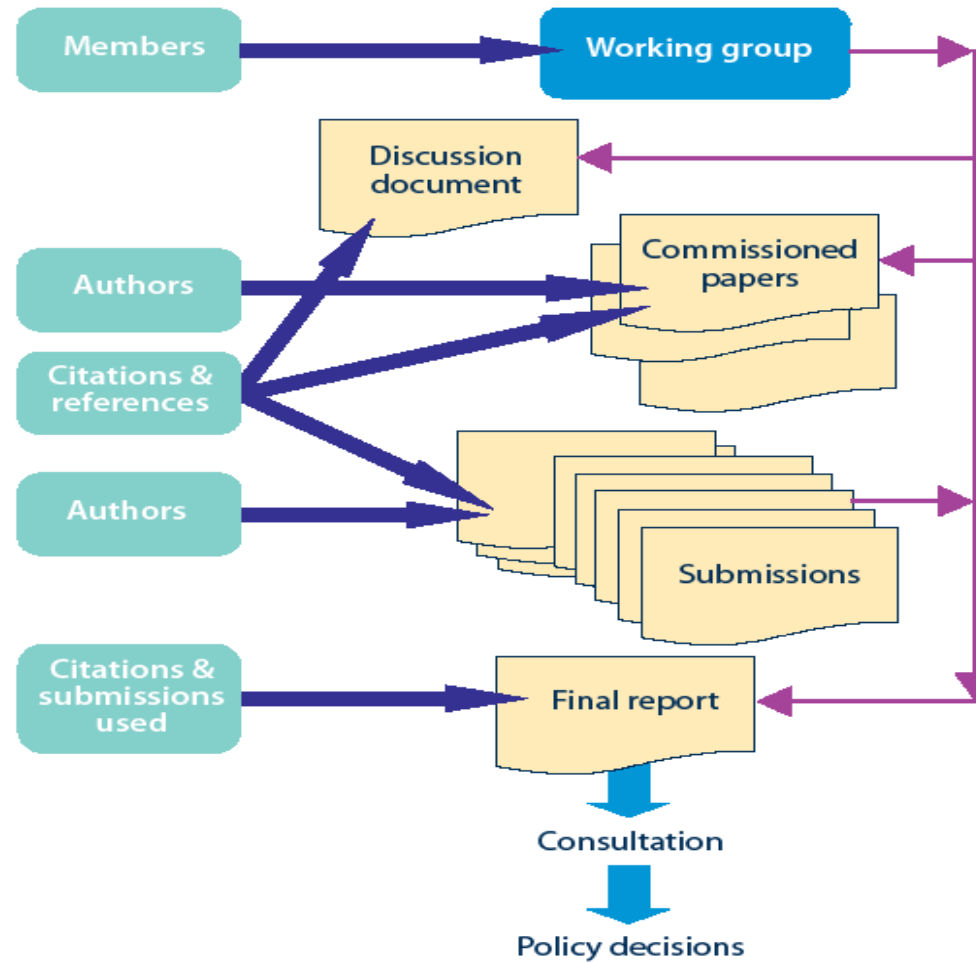
# We then....

- Obtained relevant information from the reform websites in 2009
- Extracted what we needed
- Established databases
- Coded data
- Analysed data



PHC research contributes .....

Reform initiative consultation process



# Challenges and limitations

- Defining
  - primary health care research
  - researchers
- Wide variability in referencing styles
- Study had no access to what took place behind the scenes

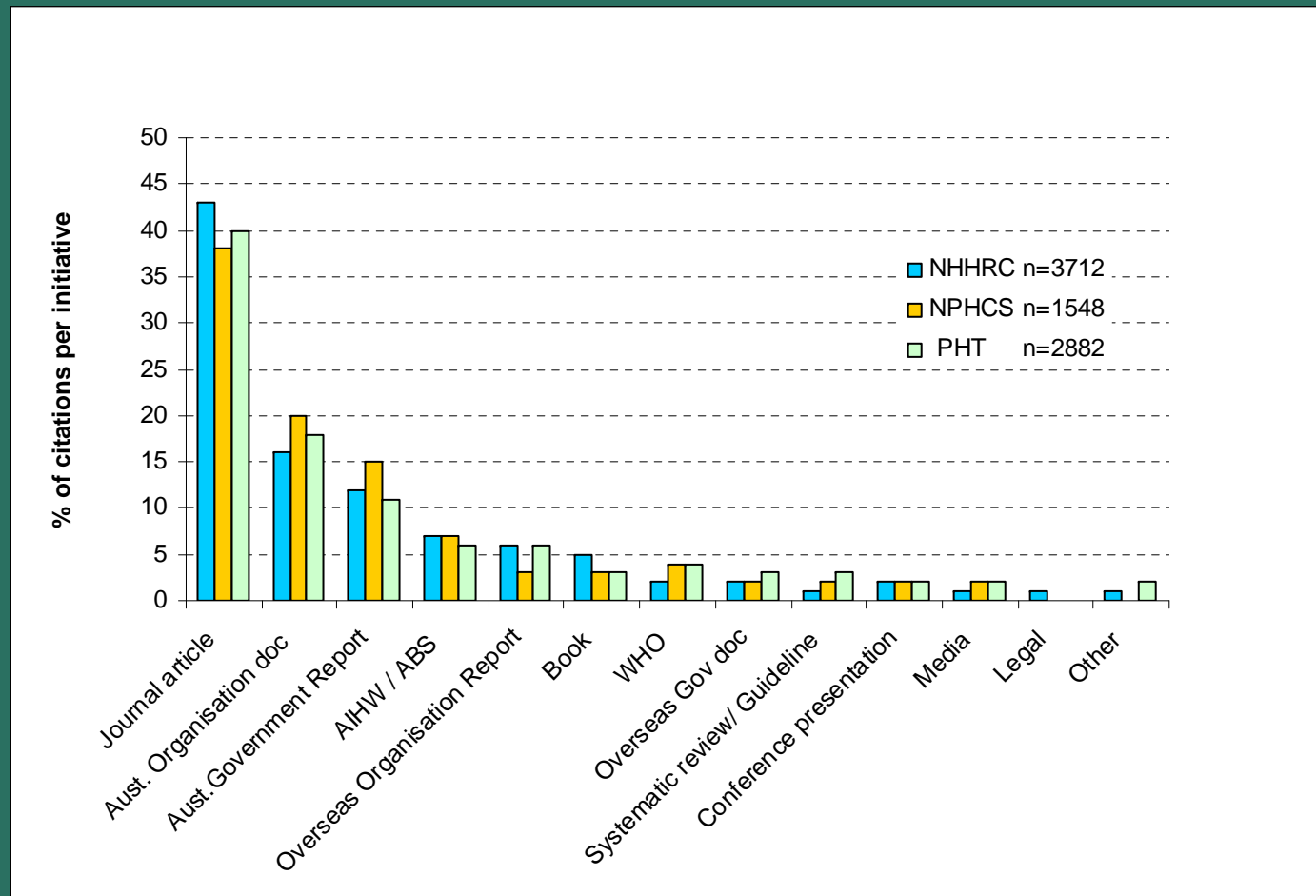


# We found.....

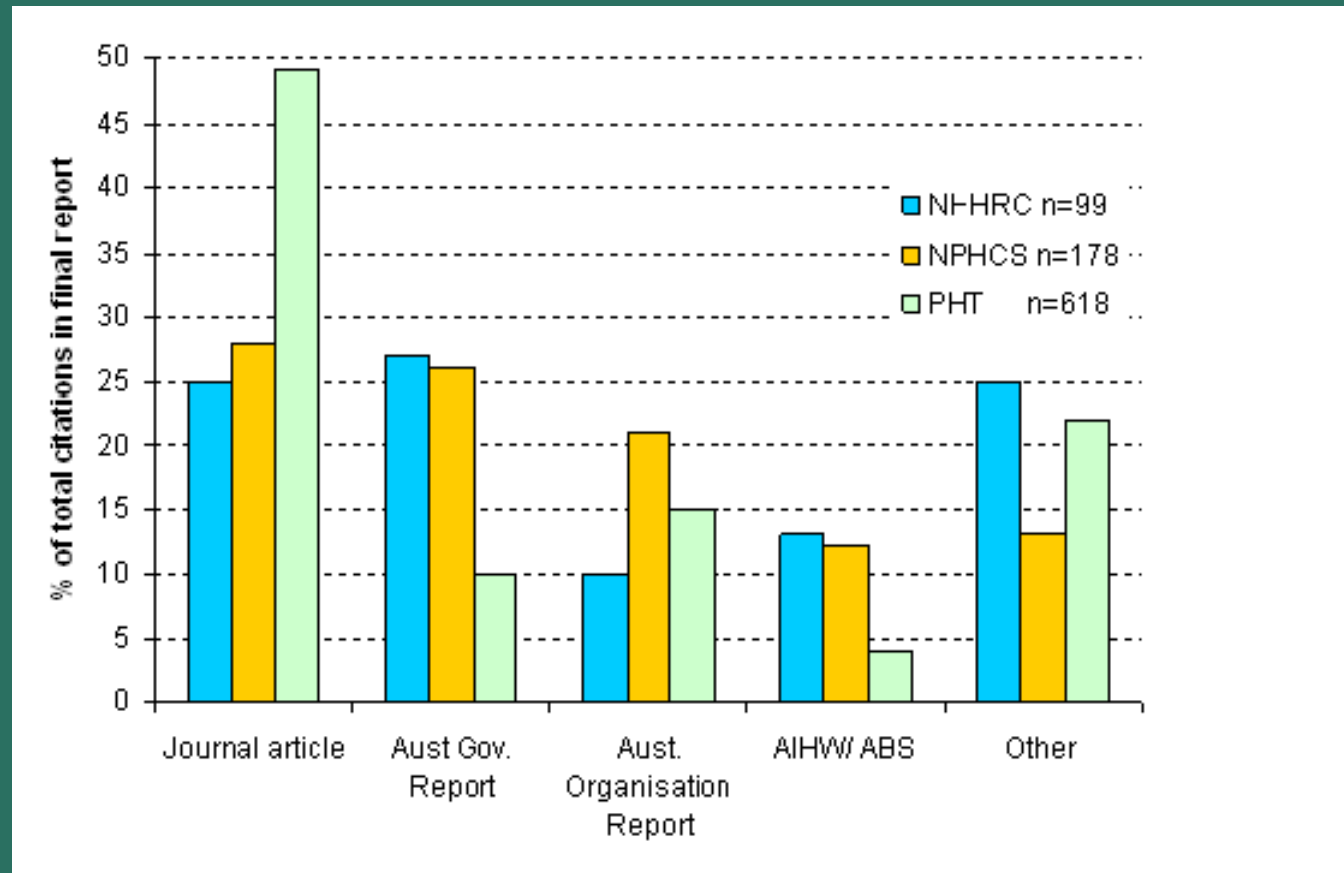
- 10 of the 30 people on working groups had published papers in primary health care research
- 12 of 70 authors of discussion and commissioned papers had current PHC university appointment
- 12% of 8000+ references were to PHC Research publications



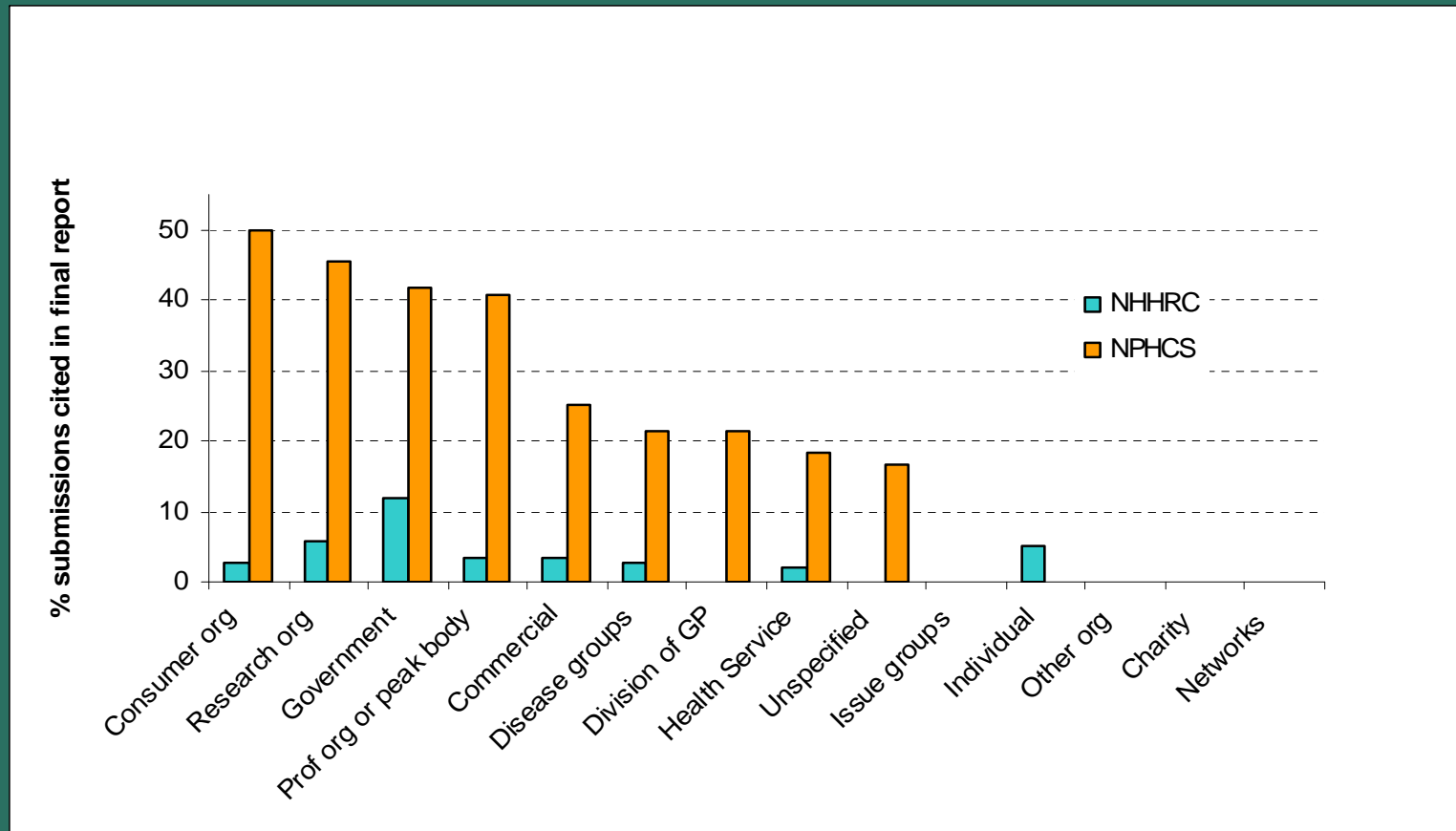
# Journal articles dominated citations in submissions and discussion papers



# Other publications were more prominent among citations in final reports



# Submissions cited in final reports



Note: National Preventative Health Taskforce cited no submissions in its final report



# PHC research used in final reports

- PHC research accounted for 12% of references in the three final reports
  - 31% in National Primary Health Care Strategy report
  - 8.5% in Preventative Health Strategy report
  - 1.3% in National Health and Hospitals reform Commission report



# PHC research contributed through people, submissions and citations

- Research evidence was used, when made available
- Researchers can make use opportunities to contribute to policy
  - Understand the relevance of their research to policy matters
  - Develop skills in writing useful submissions
  - Contribute to submissions by organisations, rather than as individuals

