



# Designing public health interventions in the 1990s

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# “Complex interventions” in the 1990s

- PubMed
  - 7 reviews
  - 1 RCT
  - 3 other studies evaluating interventions
  - 1 methodological paper
  - 4 letters/commentaries



# “Complex interventions” since 2000

- PubMed
  - 40 reviews
  - 12 RCTs & 3 protocols for RCTs
  - 10 other studies evaluating interventions
  - 25 methodological papers
  - 9 papers reporting formative evaluation &/or process evaluation
  - 4 letters/commentaries



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# Breaking new ground

- Designing multi-faceted interventions based on formative research
- ‘Cluster’ randomisation
  - sample size calculations
  - analysis methods
- Engaging stakeholders in ‘pragmatic’ (real world) settings
- Unpacking the ‘black-box’



# Public policy in the 1990s

- Neo-liberalism
- Economic rationalism
- Efficiency, productivity, 'free market'
- Privatisation



# Public policy under Kennett (1992-1999)

- Local government amalgamations
  - 210 municipalities reduced to 78
  - State government appointed commissioners replaced elected councillors
- Economic rationalism
  - Compulsory competitive tendering (CCT)
  - Privatisation



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# The Howard years (1996-2007)

- Industrial relations
- Tax & welfare 'reform'
- Privatisation
- Opposed to 'Native Title' and request for apology to Stolen Generations
- Anti asylum-seeker policy
- Iraq and 'war on terror'



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# Designing, implementing & evaluating complex interventions in the 1990s

- Breaking new ground
  - pre MRC framework
  - pioneering new methods of randomisation & process evaluation
  - ‘pragmatic’ approaches to intervention
- Conservative policy environment
  - impact of neo-liberal ‘free market’ ideology
  - major cuts to government expenditure



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