Diabetes Translational Research in the Waikato: Opportunities for budding economists to help the health sector respond to the current epidemic of diabetes

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Abstract
The prevalence of Type 2 diabetes is increasing rapidly. The world is in the grips of the largest known epidemic that mankind has experienced and original global predictions of 300m with diabetes by 2025, now thought to be an underestimate. The age at which Type 2 diabetes commences is dropping, making complications (e.g. kidney, eye, heart, vascular/nervous system) more likely and increasingly damaging babies in utero. The Diabetes Translational Research team in the Waikato is working on key projects looking at how to prevent Type 2 diabetes in the population and how to prevent complications in those who develop diabetes. Translational research looks at how to combine different interventions which may or may not be shown to be efficacious in principle, and looks at how to put them into place effectively. This requires quantitative research to see if the intervention has worked, qualitative research to see how/why it worked/did not work and economic research to assess affordability and options for more widespread implementation. This presentation will provide an overview of the work underway and an opportunity to discuss the economic evaluation of these health interventions.

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