

Twenty Years Since Fitzgerald:
Assessing the influence of research
on the development of evidence
based policy in Qld and beyond

Paul Mazerolle



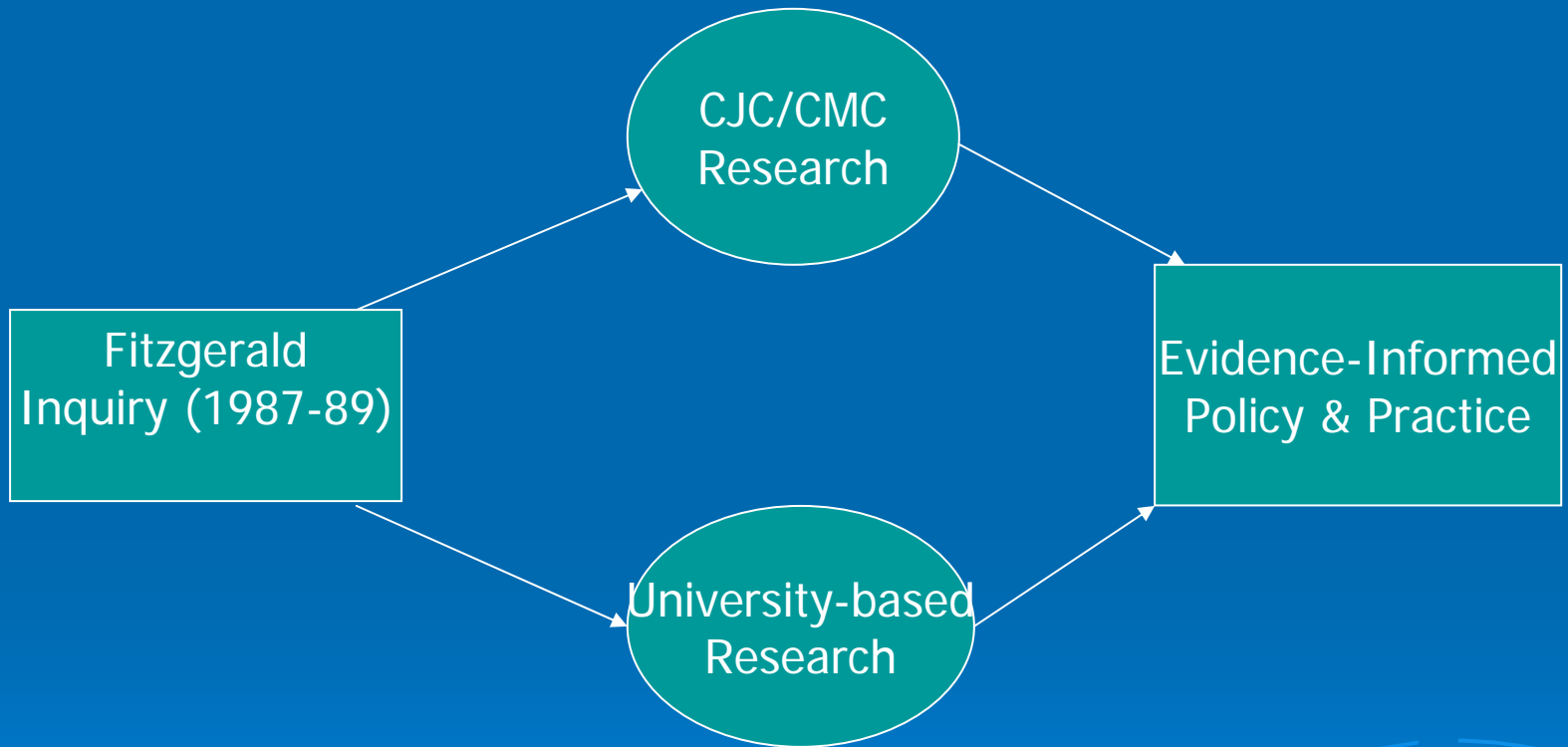
Context

- 20th Anniversary of Fitzgerald Inquiry creates opportunities for reflections about in the influence of the Inquiry
- Most focus is on corruption investigation/how best handled
- Further consideration is required of the development of a large research community since the Inquiry and the influence on evidence based policy and practice

This talk considers the influence of
Fitzgerald Inquiry on research and
evidence based policy through two
distinct pathways



Fostering Evidence-Based Research



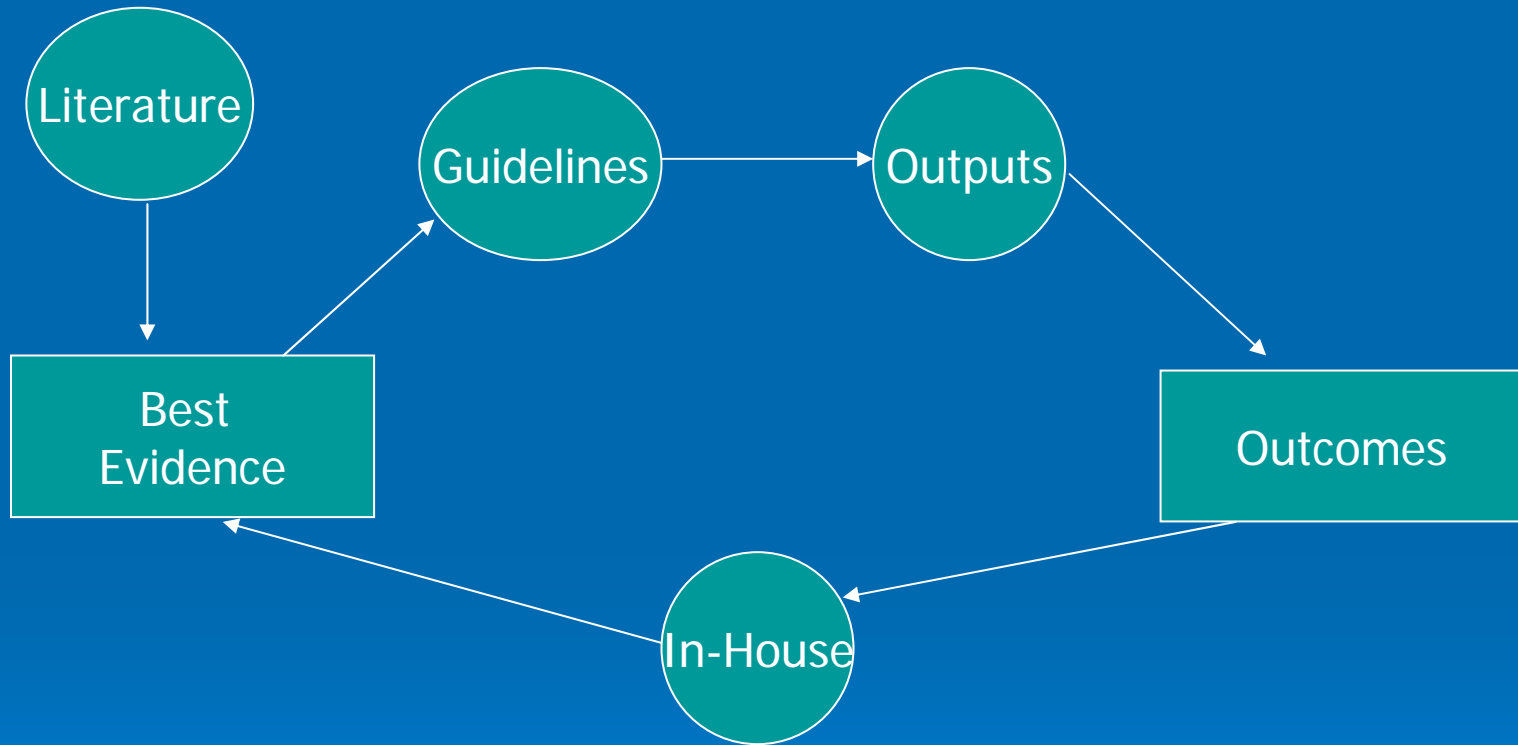
What is Evidence-Based Policing?

*Evidence-based policing is the use of the best available research on the outcomes of police work to implement guidelines and evaluate agencies, units, and officers. Put more simply **evidence-based policing uses research to guide practice and evaluate practitioners.*** Larry Sherman, 1998

Key elements

- Embrace a culture of research and evaluation
- Be informed about available evidence
- Have research findings inform the construction of (fluid) guidelines for practice
- Embrace accountability and continuous improvement

The Evidence-Based Model



The importance of research
informed policy and
practice was identified in
the Fitzgerald Inquiry



- 2g: This commission recommends that the permanent role of the CJC include
 - g. providing the commissioner of police with policy directives based on CJC research, investigation and analysis. These directives would cover law enforcement priorities, revised methods of police operations, and the optimal use of law enforcement resources.

- J. research, generating and reporting to parliament in proposals for reform of the criminal law, and law relating to the enforcement of or the administration of criminal justice, including assessment of relevant initiatives and systems elsewhere

Examples of CJC/CMC
informing policy are
numerous



Consider

➤ Policing research

- *Neighbourhood Beat Policing* (1995, 1996, 2002, 2007)
- *Police Pursuits* (1998, 2003)
- *Policing domestic violence* (2005)
- Numerous others (*Policing Disorder, Pepper Spray, Integrity Reviews, Problem Oriented Policing, etc*)

➤ Criminal Justice Policy Research

- Prostitution Evaluations
- Criminal Justice System responses to sexual offences
- Numerous other examples

Establishments of Schools of Criminology & Justice

- QUT *School of Justice* was established in 1991 as a response to the recommendation of the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Misconduct that all police recruits undertake tertiary education prior to being sworn in.
- GU *School of Justice Administration* established – foundation Professor appointed subsequently
- Strong focus on police education
- Strong research community has been established and grown over time

The crime and justice academic community

- Large teaching programs with very strong student base
- Over 100 researchers across two universities, two schools, three research centres (2 CoE)
- Areas of strength in policing, ethics & governance, justice, crime prevention, environmental criminology, developmental criminology
- Brisbane has become the hub for criminology research

Evidence of evidence informed research

➤ Numerous examples

- Wortley –Corruption in corrections
- Homel --Pathways to prevention
- Hayes/Daly – Restorative Justice
- Stewart- Justice Modeling
- Smallbone- Sexual Offending
- L. Mazerolle-OPR, 3rd Party
- P. Mazerolle- Juvenile Justice
- Others

In short, a substantial
amount of applied research
has accrued overtime,
since FI



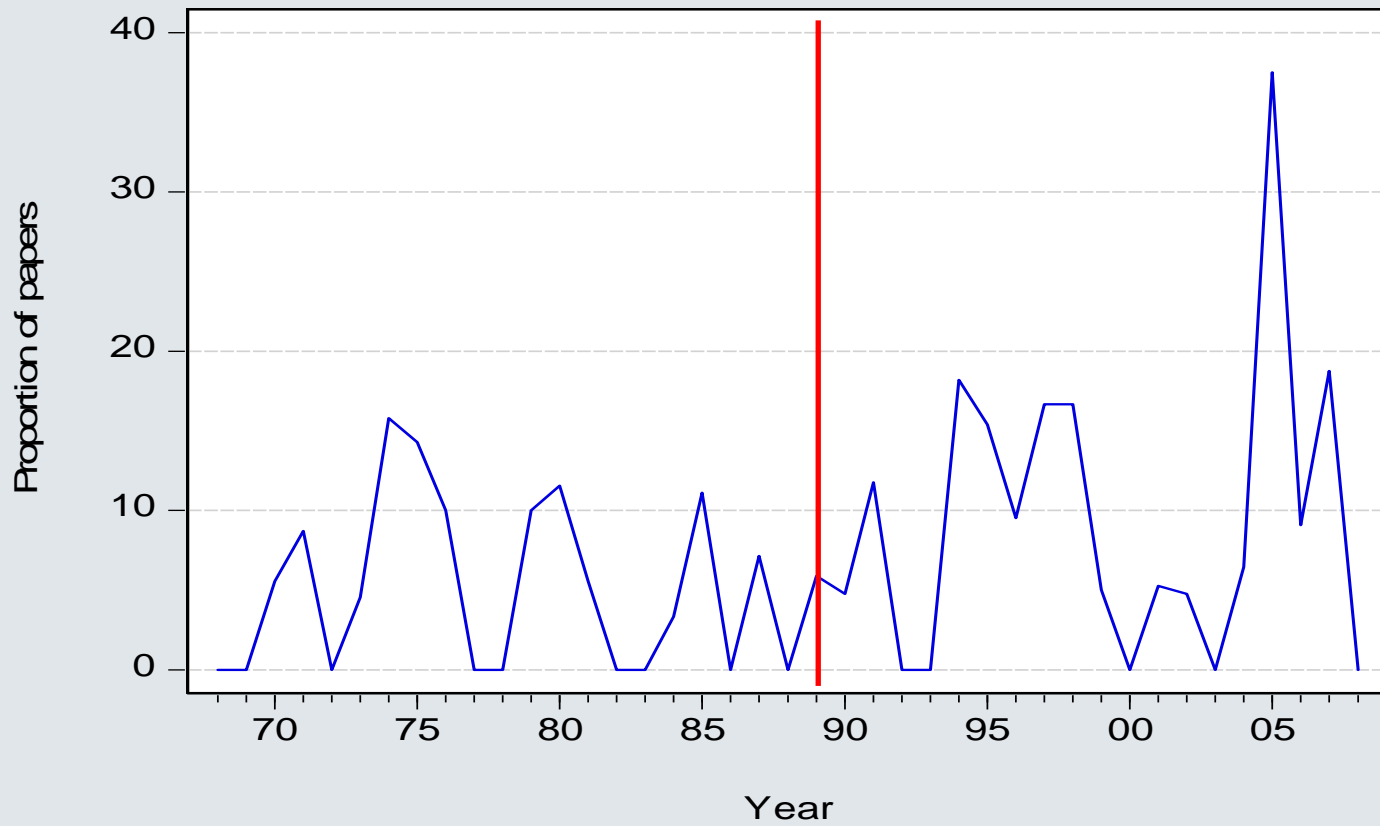
Has research on policing
increased since the Fitzgerald
Inquiry?



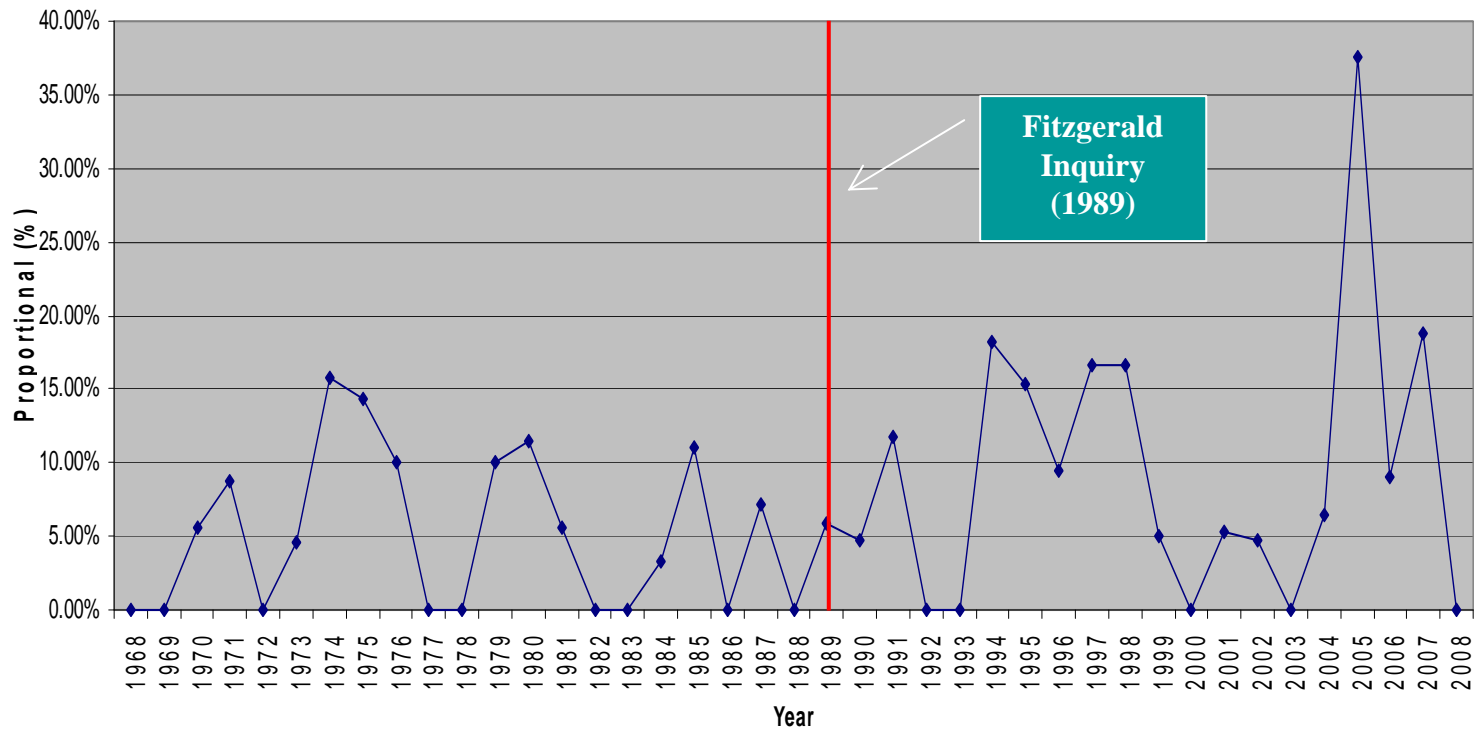
Average # of policing papers published in *ANZJC* have doubled overtime

Average number of papers (policing) per year (21 Years) Pre Fitzgerald (1968-1988)	1.048
Average number of papers (policing) per year (20 Years) Post Fitzgerald (1989-2008)	1.950

Number of Policing Papers (1968-2008)



Proportion of Policing Papers (1968-2008)



Wrapping up

- Charting the influence of FI on research community shows a major impact
 - On research and education
 - On evidence based policy
- With current trends, this impact is likely to grow over time as Brisbane's reputation as a major centre for police, crime, and justice research continues to expand