

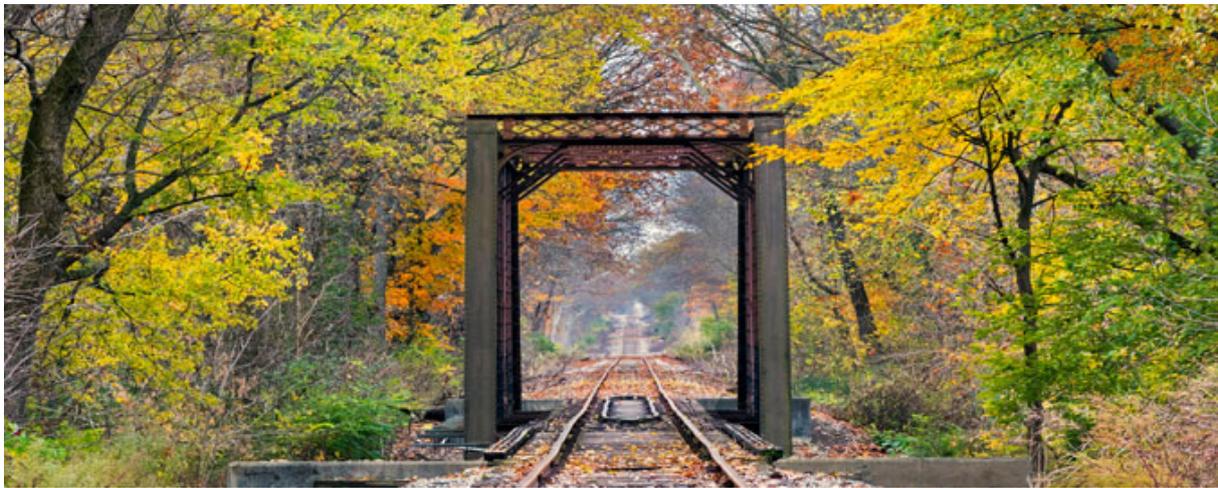


The Australian Prevention
Partnership Centre
Systems and solutions for better health

The structure of Prevention Tracker

What it is

The structure and conduct of a research project includes research design, governance, project management and implementation processes.



How we applied it

Prevention Tracker was designed to trial a suite of **systemic inquiry processes** and **systems thinking tools** and methods. We needed to draw on a range of research skills and expertise. We worked with our partner organisations in four communities across four Australia.

To implement Prevention Tracker, we engaged three groups of researchers. The first comprised the core research team who had overall responsibility for the coordination and delivery of the project. The second group were researchers, academics and systems-based experts from The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre who provided specific expertise or content knowledge when required, such as facilitation of systems practice activities or social network analysis expertise. The third group were commissioned researchers who carried out specific research on the project, for example, mapping the liveability measures and holding **group model building workshops**.

In each community, we worked with a project partner (a local organisation). We signed a memorandum of understanding and established a Local Advisory Group. This group provided local knowledge and insights into the design, implementation and interpretation of the research. The **Local Advisory Groups** were made up of a diverse range of organisations involved in prevention, including local government, non-government organisations, and health services.

An International Scientific Advisory Committee was also convened to provide ongoing advice on the project methodology. Research ethics oversight was provided by a University Ethics Committee alongside other committees in each state.

What we learnt about how to use this method

This networked approach to the coordination of research expertise was largely successful. However, it did require a significant coordinating infrastructure, from regular meetings and briefings to data management and tracking systems. The elevation of local knowledge and expertise through the local partners and advisory groups was pivotal to ensuring knowledge was locally relevant. Taking a systems approach and working across jurisdictions created additional challenges in managing research ethics.

Where to go if you need more information

Visit our website to access a series of factsheets on the Prevention Tracker project covering topics such as group model building, key informant interviews, social network analysis, system action learning. Click on the Resources tab at: <https://preventioncentre.org.au/our-work/research-projects/learning-from-local-communities-prevention-tracker-expands/>



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