



The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre  
Systems and solutions for better health

## Prevention Tracker graphic

### What it is

A visual tool to help describe a research project. Research graphics help to present information in new and different ways, and to build engagement with the research process. The graphic representation also offers a useful metaphor to help people grasp complexity and better understand the research task quickly.

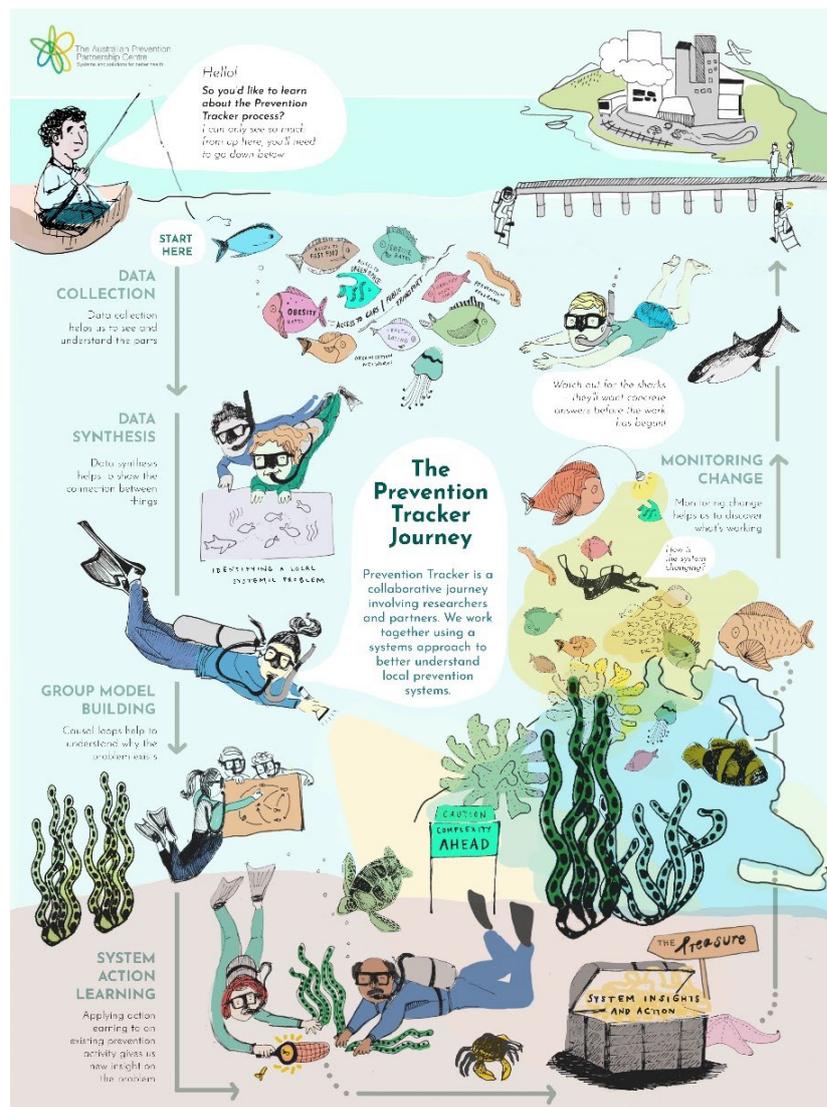
### How we applied it

At one Prevention Tracker Local Advisory Group meeting, some members mentioned that they found it difficult to communicate what the Prevention Tracker project was about. Based on this feedback we commissioned a graphic artist to help visualise the Prevention Tracker process, and the following graphic was developed:

The graphic uses the metaphor of a marine ecosystem. This invites people to imagine our systemic inquiry processes and methods as embedded in dynamic and changing contexts.

Using the marine ecosystem also allows us to draw attention to what lies above and below the surface.

Design elements, such as the arrows and text boxes, helped us to communicate the stages of the research process in a clear and easy to understand way and allowed people not familiar with the project the opportunity to understand how the various project domains fitted together.



Acknowledgement: Graphic artist, Kirsty Moegerlein, [www.kirstymoegerlein.com](http://www.kirstymoegerlein.com)

## What we learnt about how to use this method

An illustration to describe a research project can make academic work more accessible to a broader audience.<sup>1</sup> However, the researchers need to be very clear about what information needs to be included, as the graphic is a very condensed form of information. Some parts of the project lent themselves to visual representation more clearly than others, however the use of a project metaphor in this case helped to bring the graphic together visually, as well as to represent research tasks in accessible ways.

## 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/>

## Reference

1. Lambe, L. Don't let publication be the end of the story – transforming research into an illustrated abstract. 2018. LSE Impact Blog [blog]. Available at: <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2018/05/30/dont-let-publication-be-the-end-of-the-story/#8230>



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