

Questions for planning knowledge mobilisation within a system

CERI User Guide

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Understanding the system within which your research sits and how and where you are trying to influence is a key step to developing targeted knowledge mobilisation strategies.

This series of targeted questions has been synthesised from the literature. Use these questions to frame how you think the system you are working within and trying to influence.

Acknowledgement

This download from the CERI User Guide is one of many available from [The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre website](#).

It was prepared by members of the Coordinating Group to provide practical tips on knowledge mobilisation and science communication for researchers working in the prevention of chronic disease.

Thank you to Dr Michelle Irving for development of this framework.

Goals, structure & rules and feedback of the target system

1. What is the system(s) that we are working in and want to change?
 - a. Reflect on the type of system being targeted? Eg- Organisation, community, entire system
 - b. What is the setting of the system? Eg – Hospital, community, political, school, social.
 - c. What are the boundaries of the systems that we will tackle? Where will we stop and why?
2. Can a causal loop diagram, concept map or social network analysis of the system be created?
3. What are we ultimately trying to change in the system?
 - a. What is the overall goal of the change you want to make?
 - b. What are some of the objectives that will assist to achieve this goal? (These need to be flexible and be able to adapt in the process)
4. Are there factors within the systems (feedback loops) that are reinforcing the status quo? How can you break this? Can you create 'health promoting' feedback loops?
5. How could the system respond to the messages arising from our work? Can you envision any push back to the changes occurring? How might we mitigate this from the start?

Paradigms and core beliefs of the system

6. What are the underlying core beliefs or values, within the system(s) we are trying to change, do they need to be challenged?
 - a. Are there beliefs that are 'core', or are there any which may be more amenable to change?
 - b. Does any knowledge need to be produced or brokered to target these core beliefs?
7. Reflect on the team's core beliefs, assumptions, or values about the system(s) we are trying to change
 - a. Are there any blind spots as they relate to the system we are trying to change?
 - b. How will we implement ongoing learning and reflection on the core beliefs within the system and within the team?

Relationships and power in the system

8. Who are the key players, power brokers or influential actors that need to be engaged? Who should use the knowledge?
 - a. Who has the power to make key decisions? Who can influence them?
 - b. How can you increase the diversity of alliances, partnerships, or stakeholders?
 - i. To understand the value more deeply, core beliefs and assumptions underpinning the system?
 - ii. To increase the range of opportunities for the knowledge to move through in the system to effect, influence, or support change

- c. Can you 'blur' the boundaries between these groups, not just 'bridge the gap'? How can you bring these groups together?
 - d. Are there any power imbalances in your collaborations? How are you dealing with this?
9. Who will use this knowledge? How can we ensure our research is fit for purpose for your stakeholders/knowledge users?
- a. What matters to the key players and stakeholders? How can we find out? Are there any policy or practice challenges?

Actors and elements of the system including practices and resources

10. What parts of the system do we need to influence to make changes? Structures, actors, what part of the system is the most influential?
11. What capacity already exists in the system to engage with and use our work? eg Peak bodies, other researchers. How can this be harnessed or increased?
12. How will we engage with the key actors and elements in the system?
- a. How many of our research process steps involve meaningful involvement with our stakeholders? When will we involve them? What are they going to do as part of this project?
 - b. How can we maximise achievement of this? eg-Steering committee, brokering, regular communication, engagement with stakeholder groups
13. What resources are within the system?
- a. What resources are present, how could they be shifted to create change?
 - b. What additional resources are needed to create change?