ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Produced by: Health Education and Training Institute (HETI).

The guide has been adapted from a number of resources including the:

- Health Workforce, Australia for the Health Education and Training Institute (2014), *Mentoring: a guide and toolkit for mentoring rural medical trainees*
- *Mentoring Toolkit* (2016), created by the Organisational Development and Learning (ODL) team, within the Improvement and Innovation Hub at the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

HETI takes this opportunity to acknowledge the strong collaboration with Local Health Districts, Specialty Health Networks, the NSW Ministry of Health and NSW Health Pillars.

HETI greatly values the partnerships and expertise without which the successful development of this resource would not have been possible.

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Health care leaders work in increasingly complex environments, requiring specific skills for their role and strong leadership and management capabilities. Mentoring relationships can be invaluable to support the development of these capabilities.

This suite of resources includes guides and templates for mentees and mentors plus a Leadership and Management Self-assessment Tool. The resources support and lead mentors and mentees working in the formation and navigation of their mentoring relationship. In doing so, it acknowledges that both mentor and mentee make an important contribution to health leadership and increase the capacity of NSW Health organisations to provide better health outcomes for patients, their families and the wider NSW community.
“Mentoring is a collaborative learning relationship between individuals who share mutual responsibility and accountability for helping the mentee work toward the fulfillment of clear and mutually defined learning goals. Mentoring is used to assist individuals at specific stages of development or transition and lasts for a sustained but defined period of time.” ¹
OVERVIEW

Mentorship will take different forms depending on the specific health organisation or the needs of the mentee. These resources support both mentor and mentee throughout their relationship from commencement to completion and are not prescriptive of all mentoring relationships.

The resources include:

• The purpose of mentoring and the benefits to both the mentor and the mentee

• Definitions of mentoring and the difference between this and other modalities commonly available in health that promote and support leadership learning

• A mentoring model with guidelines

• An overview of roles and responsibilities of mentor and mentee

• Strategies to address any challenges that may arise in the mentoring relationship

• A toolkit to assist in applying the information in practice.
WHAT IS MENTORING?

The term mentor originates from the Greek legend, where Odysseus placed his son Telemachus under the charge of his trusted friend Mentor while he was absent fighting the Trojan War. Mentor was therefore a trusted friend or counsellor. Since then, mentoring has had a long history in many industries and professions throughout the world.

The corporate and business world has historically used the mentor-protégé or classic mentoring approach where a younger, less experienced person is taken under the wing of an older, more experienced person who then hones the younger person’s skills.²

Within healthcare, mentoring has become increasingly more common and commonly researched at all levels of both clinical and non-clinical leadership.³,⁴,⁵

Whilst there is extensive literature on mentoring related specifically to healthcare, there is no single agreed-upon definition. There are, however, commonalities within the literature about the focus and benefits related to mentoring and its functions. These include psychosocial support, learning and development, career development and role modeling. The relationship between mentor and mentee is identified as key.⁴,⁵,⁶

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DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS

**Oxford English Dictionary**

*noun*

Wise and trusted counsellor or teacher

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**Collins English Dictionary**

*noun*

To mentor someone means to give them help and advice over a period of time, especially related to their job
WHAT ARE THE DEFINITIONS OF SPONSORSHIP, MENTORING, COACHING AND SUPERVISION?

The terminology regarding sponsorship, mentoring, coaching and supervision can be confusing as there is no common agreement on definitions, despite the large amount of literature on each modality. Different meanings are applied to the same terms and some terms are used interchangeably, even within and between health professions.

Effective mentoring, however, requires that participants are clear about role definition and boundaries. It is therefore worthwhile paying some attention to the distinction between these terms as they are applied in this context.

SPONSORSHIP

A sponsor is a NSW Health senior professional staff member who is not responsible for supervising the mentee’s performance but supports them to participate in leadership and management development programs and identify opportunities to further their development. The sponsors’ role can include assisting emerging leaders and managers to identify a potential mentor. Sponsors’ roles are to assist the program participant to identify potential mentors.

COACHING

The International Coach Federation (ICF) defines coaching as “partnering with clients in a thought-provoking and creative process that inspires them to maximise their personal and professional potential”. Coaching can also be described as a structured, focused personal development process that uses a range of strategies, tools and techniques to promote desirable and sustainable change for the benefit of the coachee and for other stakeholders.

SUPERVISION

“Clinical supervision is a practice-focused professional relationship involving a practitioner reflecting on practice guided by a skilled supervisor.” Through a process of exploration and meaning making, the clinician is enabled to consider evidence-based practice, develop new learning, demonstrate professional accountability and improve patient care. Supervision has the patient or client and the context of care at its centre.
MENTORING

“Mentoring typically involves two parties (a mentor and a mentee), a relationship (formal or informal) and the transfer of skills, knowledge and attitudes with the objective of development and growth of the mentee.” 11 The mentor is usually someone in a more senior position from whom the mentee can, through a process of support and engagement, learn and develop in their chosen area.

From these definitions, it is clear that there is considerable overlap and transferability of core skills between each of these developmental relationships.

ROLES THAT SUPPORT LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

- Development Provider
- NSW Health Organisation Manager
- Sponsor
- Staff Member
- Mentor
**MENTORING, COACHING AND SUPERVISION**

Table 1 provides a high-level overview of three of the modalities outlined above. The role of sponsor is not included because that relationship has a very different focus to the other three. Supervision is included because it is recognised that staff who work in the clinical context may be enrolled in development programs and therefore may be experiencing both mentoring and supervision.

**COMPARISON BETWEEN SUPERVISION, LEADERSHIP COACHING AND MENTORING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Supervision</th>
<th>Leadership Coaching</th>
<th>Mentoring for Leadership and Management Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus and outcome</strong></td>
<td>Safe and effective patient care</td>
<td>Development of effective leadership and management attributes, skills and behaviours</td>
<td>Professional and personal leadership and management development (of the mentee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timing and duration</strong></td>
<td>Each supervision session is patient-focussed and is a structured stand-alone conversation that generally lasts for one hour. Sessions are usually monthly</td>
<td>Coach and coachee agree together on the outcomes the coachee is seeking. Each coaching session lasts for one hour and builds on the developmental progress of the coachee. Formal coaching sessions last for one hour, with 2 – 4 sessions monthly</td>
<td>Mentor and mentee determine together at the beginning of the relationship the focus, outcomes, length and frequency of the sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Confidentiality</strong></td>
<td>Confidentiality is a key component of each of these developmental modalities and is maintained unless there is a concern about patient care, professional conduct or personal safety</td>
<td>Personal and professional</td>
<td>Personal and professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Context</strong></td>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td>Personal and professional</td>
<td>Personal and professional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### COMPARISON BETWEEN SUPERVISION, LEADERSHIP COACHING AND MENTORING

<table>
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<th>Supervision</th>
<th>Leadership Coaching</th>
<th>Mentoring for Leadership and Management Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Experience</strong></td>
<td>The supervisor requires experience and knowledge in supervision as well as clinical expertise</td>
<td>The coach requires coaching skills but does not necessarily need to be from the same practice or development area</td>
<td>The mentor in this context requires leadership and/or management skills and knowledge. It would be a benefit if the mentor’s background matched the mentee’s aspirations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seniority</strong></td>
<td>Not relevant as long as the supervisor has the skills required. Must not be a direct manager of the supervisee</td>
<td>Not relevant as long as the coach has the relevant skills. Managers can coach</td>
<td>Mentors are generally senior to the mentee, however, are not usually their line manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core skills</strong></td>
<td>These skills are common to each modality and include goal setting and action planning, emotional intelligence and communication skills (reflective listening, powerful questioning, feedback and constructive challenging). For the purpose of mentoring, these skills are commonly held by senior leaders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Adapted from *Coaching and Mentoring for Frontline Practitioners*®
## THE MANY ROLES OF A MENTOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trusted and faithful guide</td>
<td>Guides the journey of development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitator</td>
<td>Enables the mentee to open up to new possibilities and set or achieve goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach</td>
<td>Encourages, provides feedback and helps in acquiring new skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sounding board</td>
<td>Provides a safe place to try out new ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical friend</td>
<td>Supportively challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networker</td>
<td>Helps develop useful connections at work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role model</td>
<td>Provides an example from whom to learn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.12

### FURTHER READING

Coaching and Mentoring for Frontline Practitioners11
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MENTORING?

BENEFITS TO ORGANISATION

• Builds employee confidence and motivation
• Improves staff retention
• Supports succession planning and retention of knowledge and expertise
• Improves communication across the organisation
• Enhances employee professional and personal development
• Enhances people management and leadership skills
• Supports the retention of learnings where used as part of a formal development program

BENEFITS TO MENTOR

• Renews motivation through recognition as an experienced employee with valued expertise and knowledge
• Provides opportunities to share experience, knowledge and skills
• Challenges own thinking and provides opportunities to learn from others
• Provides opportunities to reflect upon and articulate roles and responsibilities
• Facilitates positive contributions to the professional development of others
• Enhances skills in developing others
• Develops a more personal style of leadership
• Delivers an opportunity to broaden perspectives, understanding views of others and their workplace experiences
• Provides a chance to discover and work with upcoming talent

BENEFITS TO MENTEE

• Fosters acquisition of knowledge, skills and professional experience
• Helps identify career and further development opportunities
• Increases exposure to more experienced individuals
• Provides development in a manner highly relevant to the organisation
• Provides opportunities to share and seek advice on difficult situations and problems with someone other than own manager
• Improves understanding of organisational structures, cultures and career pathways
• Builds networks
• Builds confidence and empowerment

Table 3. Adapted from Mentoring Toolkit, 2016, Organisational Learning and Development team, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.
WHAT UNDERPINS AN EFFECTIVE MENTORING RELATIONSHIP?

- A relationship that involves an honest mutual exchange
- Reciprocated respect
- Unambiguous, clearly agreed expectations
- A connection at a personal level
- Common values

WHAT MAKES MENTORING WORK?

The following key principles for effective mentoring are from a mentoring program in the London Deanery for doctors working in the United Kingdom’s National Health Service (NHS).

**VOLUNTARY**
Both parties are able to participate or withdraw gracefully if the mentoring relationship is not compatible

**CONFIDENTIALITY**
Both parties must be able to trust that information will not be disclosed to anyone else (except in exceptional circumstances such as concerns regarding patient or practitioner safety)

**EXTERNALLITY**
Ideally, the mentor must be external to the mentee’s place of work, e.g. not their line manager or supervisor

**CHOICE**
The mentee must have a choice of mentors

**PREPARATION**
The mentee, as the driver of the relationship, must commit to preparing for a mentoring session and being aware of their responsibilities

**CONTRACTING**
Ground rules are established early, agreed by both parties and documented

**ETHICAL PARTNERSHIP**
The relationship is predicated on promoting the highest standard of professional practice
NO BLAME

Mentoring partnerships can be intense. Interpersonal friction or a lack of rapport may interfere with its effectiveness. Either party is able to withdraw from the partnership without blame or repercussions.

AVOIDANCE OF DEPENDENCE

The aim of the partnership is to foster self-reliance on the part of the mentee.

WHAT DO MENTORS AND MENTEES TALK ABOUT?

Whilst every mentor/mentee relationship is unique, effective partnerships generally cover the three classic components of mentoring: professional development, leadership and management development and personal support.\(^\text{15}\)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Career progression and planning
- Development opportunities – skills development, further learning needs
- Professional knowledge

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

- Decision-making
- Developing resilience in times of adversity
- Current work challenges
- Time management
- Relationship with manager
- Relationship with team
- Own performance
- Performance of colleagues
- Difficult conversations
- Challenging work situations
- Ethical and professional challenges\(^\text{14}\)

PERSONAL SUPPORT

- Lifestyle and work-life balance
- Impact of personal issues on work/professional development

EVALUATION

Both parties commit to periodic evaluation and review of how things are progressing.

Adapted from: The First Five Hundred – A Report on London Deanery’s Coaching and Mentoring Service 2008 – 2010\(^\text{14}\)
MODELS OF MENTORING

As the literature on mentoring reflects, there are many different models of mentoring, ranging from very informal to highly structured approaches.

Table 4 illustrates different intended outcomes of mentoring and aligns them with timing, structure and relationship. In the context of a formal program the mentoring process is likely to be highly structured and short-term (e.g. 6 months). However, if both parties are in agreement it could be possible to move towards the longer term forms of mentoring described on the right hand side of the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High structure</th>
<th>High structure, short term</th>
<th>Highly structured, long term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The relationship is formally established for a short period of time, often to meet specific learning objectives</td>
<td>Often used for succession planning or to master a craft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low structure</th>
<th>Informal, short-term</th>
<th>Informal, long-term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This type of mentoring ranges from spontaneous advice to as-needed counselling. There may be no ongoing relationship</td>
<td>Often referred to as “friendship mentoring”. It consists of being available as needed, to discuss problems, to listen or share special knowledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Short-term | Length of intervention | Long-term

Table 4.

MODEL: FORMS MENTORING MAY TAKE

Source: Shea, GF, Gianotti, SC. *Mentoring: Make It a Mutually Rewarding Experience* (reproduced with permission).
COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE MENTORING MODEL

STAGES OF MENTORING – OVERVIEW
There are a number of stages in the process of mentoring, each with a defined set of tasks or functions. The following model depicts the four stages of the relationship. The stages are not necessarily circumscribed or unidirectional. As with all complex human relationships, progress may be dynamic and move in both directions.

The stages are presented here to provide a structure that effective mentoring partnerships are likely to pass through.

*Figure 2. Stages of the Mentoring Partnership*
Like any relationship between two people, the initial stage is about getting to know each other and establishing a shared understanding of the nature and purpose of the relationship. Building trust and rapport are the fundamental goals of this stage.

This is important regardless of whether or not the mentor relationship has been established as part of a formal match or more informally, such as the mentor having been the mentee’s previous supervisor.

While generally the mentee will have arranged the meeting (see Practical issues for more information) both parties have a significant amount of work to undertake during this stage, but with a shared purpose.

THE FIRST MEETING
Detailed attention is given to the objectives of the first meeting. Effective mentoring relationships have clear objectives, a common understanding and shared rules of engagement – this supports the rapid building of rapport and trust.

While it is likely that the mentor will guide much of the first meeting, the mentee should be encouraged to direct where at all possible.

STAGE ONE – TASKS
• **Get to know each other** – this is helped by sharing each other’s curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé (best done beforehand) and moving toward a more personal knowledge of each other including professional, social, family, interests and hobbies outside of work.

• **Establish the rules of engagement** – the following might all be documented in a mentoring agreement: boundaries, confidentiality, success criteria and measurement, accountability, practical issues (timing, frequency, mode, record, contact between sessions), and what to do if issues arise (see Mentoring agreement and Practical issues).

• **Discuss goals and objectives** – the conversation at this stage might focus on the big picture in preparation for narrowing down to specifics in later sessions.
It may take a couple of meetings to undertake these tasks and it is likely that the partnership will gradually evolve into the next stage.

By the third meeting, it would be expected that engagement has occurred and that there is a deepening level of trust developing between the mentor and mentee.

In some instances, the mentor/mentee pairing is not compatible and it is best to cease the partnership (see Mentor/mentee mismatch).

**Get to know each other**

**Establish rules of engagement**

**Discuss practical issues**

**Discuss goals and objectives**

**Complete Mentoring Agreement**

**TOOLKIT RESOURCE:**
- Agenda: first meeting
- Mentoring code of conduct
- Mentoring agreement

The NSW Health CORE Values of Collaboration, Openness, Respect and Empowerment should be at the heart of all work within NSW Health, including the mentoring partnerships. Adherence to these values ensures engagement with all colleagues is in line with the NSW Health Code of Conduct.
To some degree, this stage will commence from the first meeting but will usually continue over the first couple of contacts.

The primary focus of this stage is to discuss and agree to clear goals and objectives for the mentoring partnership.

This stage requires proactive preparation and participation by the mentee who needs to think ahead to how the partnership might be used to enhance their leadership development, career planning and personal growth.

During this stage, both mentor and mentee should work together to create and agree to a mentoring action plan.

The action plan articulates the specific goals and objectives of the partnership and key actions. It may also be used to monitor progress along the way.

**TASKS**

Set clear goals and objectives

Think about leadership and career development

Create and agree on a mentoring action plan

**TOOLKIT RESOURCE:**

* Leadership and Management capabilities and behavioural self-assessment
This is arguably the stage where the real benefits of the mentoring relationship are realised. In effective mentoring partnerships, a sharing of experiences and insights occur, in addition to reflection and challenge.

It is also the stage that requires high levels of rapport and trust between the two participants to be truly effective.

Although the focus is always on the needs of the mentee, two-directional learning is generally a sign that an effective mentoring relationship has been developed.

**STAGE THREE - TASKS**

- **Review goals and objectives** – Mentee to use the SMART goal checklist and the Action plan as a springboard not as a constraint
- **Mentor to listen, reflect and challenge**
- **Share successes and failures** – many mentees report that having the opportunity to celebrate successes and hear about their mentor’s mistakes or failures, the lessons learnt and recovery strategies is one of the most valuable parts of being mentored (maintaining confidentiality is of course critical to this)
- **Review progress of the mentoring partnership** – review communication styles, achievements, challenge blocks and be prepared to change direction if required (see Measuring progress).

**TASKS**

- Review goals and objectives
- Review progress
- Share successes and failures
- Mentor to challenge, encourage reflection and keep focus on mentee needs

**TOOLKIT RESOURCE:**

- Mentoring meeting notes and actions
The final stage acknowledges that the mentoring relationship has fulfilled its purpose and provides a means for a respectful and professional separation.

In many cases, mentors and mentees may continue to have more informal contact with each other, however, the intense focus on goals and objectives for that particular mentee’s stage of development and the mentors specific contribution to it is largely complete.

Effective closure marks a change in expectations and actual functioning of the relationship going forward.

**STAGE FOUR - TASKS**

- **Acknowledge** that the partnership has done its best work and be prepared to move on (even if agreeing to stay in more informal contact)
- **Evaluate** and measure what has been achieved during the mentoring relationship
- **Celebrate** accomplishments using the mentoring action plan to identify what was achieved and the role of the mentor in this achievement
- **Acknowledge** what might not have been achieved
- **Express gratitude** for what was shared and learnt
- **End the relationship** and agree what the relationship will look like going forward

**TOOLKIT RESOURCE:**
*Agenda for the final meeting*

**FURTHER READING:**
*Techniques for Coaching and Mentoring*
PRACTICAL ISSUES

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS
Generally the mentor and mentee should aim to meet at least every two months. Longer term mentor/mentee relationships may meet far less frequently than this. What is more important is that the purpose of the meeting is understood and both have a sense that progress is being made (see previous section on Stages of mentoring).

TIMING
For formal meetings at least one hour should be set aside.

INITIATION OF MEETINGS
Generally the mentee, as the primary beneficiary, should be the one who undertakes to organise meetings. Schedule in all the meetings for the expected time that the mentoring relationship will last e.g, six months.

FORMALITY
The level of formality is ultimately up to the participants. The literature supports a formal structure, particularly around the rules of engagement, leads to more effective outcomes and greater satisfaction for participants with less issues during the mentoring process.

For this reason the mentee needs to prepare prior to each mentoring session. For example, setting the agenda, identifying formal objectives and considering what they would like to achieve from the session. Refer to the toolkit for templates of a Mentoring agreement and Action plan.

WHERE TO MEET
Meetings may be face-to-face or virtual. It is important to consider an environment where there will be no distraction and confidential discussions can occur.

On some occasions, the mentor and mentee may choose to undertake a less formal activity such as meeting over a coffee which may provide another dimension to the relationship.

MENTORING AGREEMENT
Many mentor partnerships establish a mentoring agreement which is signed by both parties articulating expectations, rules of engagement and provides a sense of purpose and direction for future meetings. See Mentoring agreement.

It is important that the Mentoring Agreement is used solely to support and guide activities and should not be the focus of the meetings. After all, it is the mentoring process that is of central importance.
CONFIDENTIALITY

The respect for confidentiality is critical to the success of the mentoring relationship and needs to be upheld by both parties. Mentees highly value the opportunity to express doubts, fears and vulnerabilities in an environment that will not be perceived as having a negative impact on their career prospects or development program.

They also value hearing a trusted senior colleague who has been in a similar situation and challenges – this can have a very powerful impact on both the mentor and mentee but it can only occur in an environment built upon trust.

Establishment of trust is a critical touch point of the mentoring relationship – both mentor and mentee can contribute to its development.

It is important that the rules of confidentiality are established early. Mentors need to be explicit regarding any contact they have with the mentee’s line manager.

Refer to Dealing with Issues for more information.
TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL MENTORING MEETINGS

DEDICATED SPACE
Arrange a dedicated environment to participate in the mentoring meeting. Seek a quiet space, without distraction to enhance concentration and productivity. If you are in a work environment, book a meeting room to allow you to speak openly. If working remotely, make sure you won’t be interrupted.

ARRIVE ON TIME
Or a little early! Allow time before the scheduled start of the mentoring meeting to test your connection and resolve any potential issues with equipment.

NO MULTI-TASKING
Our social engagement rules remain the same even when we are physically separated from each other. Create a dedicated space.

SHUT DOWN OUTLOOK AND INSTANT MESSAGING
Distractions will impact your mentoring meeting: turn your phone to silent and shut down Outlook and any instant messaging.

TURN ON YOUR VIDEO
Be visible! This creates connection and provides a more interactive experience. Before you do, check if your background is appropriate and consider what you are wearing.

WEAR A HEADSET
A headset allows you to hear each other clearer and removes background noise when you are speaking.
MEASURING PROGRESS

Measuring progress along the way is critical to successful mentoring partnerships. To ensure that both participants remain engaged, periodically check in on how the relationship is progressing, what issues are arising and what is being achieved.

AREAS TO MEASURE

- Purpose
- Communication
- Trust
- Process
- Progress
- Feedback

During the final stage, it is important to reflect on the value of the investment that each participant has brought to the relationship and the importance of this for future mentoring relationships in each individual’s career.

A mentor who has had a good experience and felt appreciated, used their experience and skills and furthered their own professional development, is more likely to want to engage in mentoring in the future.

In the case of mentees, if they have had a positive experience and see the value of mentoring, they are more likely to becoming a mentor in the future.
SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

MENTOR/MENTEE MISMATCH

Given the nature of human relationships, even when there is a careful matching of participants, as many as 10% of mentoring partnerships won’t succeed. This needs to be acknowledged at the outset and contingency plans put in place.

Fundamental to successful mentoring partnerships are a common or shared value system. In some cases it only becomes evident that there is a non-alignment of values and aspirations once participants get to know each other a little better. Generally, by the second or third meeting participants should be confident about whether there will be enough trust developed to facilitate a meaningful experience.

If at any stage either person feels that the mentoring relationship is just not working, it is best to be frank and acknowledge this. It becomes much easier to do this if it is one of the discussion points in the first meeting (see Stage one of mentoring). A graceful and respectful exit can thereby be negotiated. In terminating the relationship, it is important for both to engage in a no blame philosophy.

FURTHER READING

FOR MENTORS

“An outstanding mentor is wise and resilient, exercises sound judgment, and encourages independence when his or her mentee is ready.” 17
ATTRIBUTES OF SUCCESSFUL MENTORS

There is a considerable body of literature identifying the characteristics of successful or effective mentors.

KEY ATTRIBUTES

• Empathetic
• Open-minded
• Flexible about the best way of approaching things
• Willing to challenge and be challenged
• Willing to talk openly and honestly with their mentee
• Interested in people
• Approachable.

To these could be added:

• High level communication and questioning skills (coaching)
• Knowledge of a range of tools and strategies
• A desire to help others learn and grow
• Enthusiasm
• Humour
• A curious and caring nature
• A non-judgmental approach
• An ability to encourage or facilitate reflection and movement towards constructive action
• Broad knowledge of the health care context and the health organisation in which both the mentor and mentee are employed
• Self-awareness, emotional intelligence and an understanding of human behaviour
• Goal elicitation
• Alignment with own values
• Lifelong learners.

COUNTERPRODUCTIVE MENTOR BEHAVIOURS

• Assumes they know what’s in the mentee’s best interest
• Dominates the conversation and direction of the session
• Reminds the mentee how much they have to learn
• Trivialises the mentee’s concerns
• Neither shows nor admits any personal weaknesses
• Shares confidential information that isn’t relevant in an attempt to show how well connected they are
• Acts in or talks about their own interests as primary focus

“An effective mentor values mentoring as an important part of his or her professional role and is dedicated to developing an important relationship with the mentee.”

Page 35
HOW TO FOSTER A POSITIVE MENTORING RELATIONSHIP

MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY
It is imperative in a mentoring relationship that all conversations remain confidential. In rare circumstances there may be a legal requirement to report an incident or behaviour. Clear communication should occur between mentor and mentee prior to the reporting.

DETERMINE EXPECTATIONS
What are the expectations that your mentee is hoping to achieve from this relationship? As the mentor you need to determine if an expectation is reasonable for both parties.

BE ACCOMMODATING
Allocate a set time for your mentee. This lets the mentee know that the relationship is important and worthy of the investment of your time.

BE RECEPTIVE TO THE MENTEE’S NEEDS
To be receptive, you need to practice active listening. Your mentee may share with you concerns regarding their future. Often a junior manager and leader, who doesn’t have the experience of a more senior leader, cannot see that the future may hold all sorts of possibilities. Ask enquiring questions to enable the mentee to explore the full range of options that may be available to them.

KNOW WHEN TO ASK FOR HELP
As the mentor you are not expected to have all of the answers. A wise mentor will acknowledge this and give the mentee permission to explore advice from others.

MAINTAIN MOMENTUM
Both the mentor and mentee should enjoy an intellectually stimulating relationship. It is the role of the mentor to keep the discussion and activities focused on mentoring and relevant to the stated goals.

PATIENCE
We all grow at different rates and understand our world in our own time – be patient. Be careful with judgements – what might be perceived as lack of focus could in fact be considered reflection!

KNOW WHEN TO MOVE ON
Not every mentor/mentee relationship will work.

GENUINE COLLEGIALITY
A healthy mentoring relationship is not competitive, but is collegial. In this type of relationship both participants will enjoy the successes of each other.
KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Meet with mentee as agreed
- Establish and build rapport throughout the relationship
- Agree and keep to the mentoring action plan
- Manage time commitments
- Assess the needs of the mentee and agree on priorities (driven by mentee)
- Support the mentee to improve their breadth of knowledge and skills
- Share broader perspectives of the health sector, professional career, culture and work environment
- Facilitate mentees to articulate their aspirations and realise their potential
- Provide contacts or networks for mentees to follow up
- Recognise and celebrate achievements
- Challenge and reflect on positive and less positive behaviours
- Encourage the mentee to think beyond the obvious
- Prompt the mentee to keep their line manager involved as much as possible
- Encourage and motivate the mentee
- Ensure confidentiality as agreed with the mentee
- Initiate reviews of progress at regular intervals
- Identify when the work of the relationship is complete (closure)
- Manage feelings and emotions when closing formal relationship
- Keep in touch beyond the mentoring relationship and take a continuing interest
- Be open and honest at all times
- Do not discuss mentee with their line manager unless agreed by mentee
- Advise when other support is available, required or recommended (outside your mentoring boundaries for example, counselling or medical advice)

Adapted from A Managers’ & Mentors Handbook on Mentoring (reproduced with permission).

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Experienced leaders will already have effective communication skills. The communication skills of effective mentors are essentially the same, however, there may be some differences in emphasis.

Be clear on the focus and the purpose of the role and how this might impact on the communication style used in a given interaction. For example, mentoring emphasises the use of empathy, active listening, goal elicitation, facilitation of effective discussions and constructive feedback that promotes learning and growth.
**EMPATHY**

Empathy involves an understanding and feeling for the mental states and emotions of another person and how the person’s context influences their thinking or feeling. As Egan argues, “the empathic person experiences the other in context.”

Demonstrating empathy is critical to building both rapport and respect in the mentoring relationship. Specific communication skills that demonstrate empathy include:

- Active listening
- Open body language
- Eye contact
- Listen for facts and feelings
- Reflective statements

[Click here](#) to watch Brené Brown on *Empathy.*

**ACTIVE LISTENING**

Active listening is listening with genuine interest and focus, not only on what is being said, but the way in which it is being said. It requires attention to both the verbal and the non-verbal cues and clarification of meaning and understanding.

> “The wise man is not the man who gives the right answers; he is the one who asks the right questions.”
> Claude Levi-Strauss (1908 – 2009)

**SMART GOAL ELICITATION**

SMART goals help focus on the Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timeliness within which goals will be achieved. Use the below examples to help the mentee structure agreed goals using the template provided in the mentee resource.

- **SPECIFIC**
  - What do I want to accomplish?
  - Define the goal as much as possible. The who, what, where, when, why, which.

- **MEASURABLE**
  - How will my goal be measured?
  - How will I know when my goal is accomplished?

- **ATTAINABLE**
  - Is my goal a challenge but still possible to achieve?
  - What are the actions required to achieve my goal?

- **REALISTIC/RELEVANT**
  - Is my goal realistic within the resources at hand?
  - Is my goal consistent with other goals and immediate and long-term plans?

- **TIMELY**
  - Is my goal trackable?
  - When will my goal be reached?
GOAL TYPES

The following table (Table 5) may help guide the goal elicitation conversation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOAL TYPE</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>GOAL CONVERSATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task learning</td>
<td>Shadowing and learning skills</td>
<td>• What do you need to know?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• What does success or competence or achievement look like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in this task?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• How will you know how well you are doing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills transfer or acquisition</td>
<td>Transition from incompetence</td>
<td>• What skills do you need to learn?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to unconscious competence</td>
<td>• How will you apply them?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance enhancement</td>
<td>Achieving specific targets</td>
<td>• What do you need or want to do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• What does excellence look like?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• What coping strategies will help you manage weaknesses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• How can you build on strengths?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career development and self-</td>
<td>Achieving career success</td>
<td>• What is your ambition?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>management</td>
<td></td>
<td>• What resources do you have (internally and externally)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>to help you achieve your career ambition?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL TYPE</td>
<td>PURPOSE</td>
<td>GOAL CONVERSATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Behavioural change     | Develop specific competencies or overcoming defined weaknesses | • What needs to change in your thinking to produce changes in your behaviour?  
                          |                                             | • How will you sustain change?  
                          |                                             | • How will you ensure others see you have changed? |
| Whole person development | Wider self-fulfillment                      | • How can you grow as a person?  
                          |                                             | • Who do you want to become and why?  
                          |                                             | • How will you manage the conflicting demands on your time, energy and attention? |
| Transformational change | Clarifying life purpose; acquiring greater sense of maturity | • What is the critical transition you need to make in your approach your work?  
                          |                                             | • What insights do you need to bring about personal change?  
                          |                                             | • What do you need to let go to fulfil your potential? |

Table 5. Adapted from *Beyond Goals: Effective Strategies for Coaching and Mentoring*
FACILITATING EFFECTIVE DISCUSSION

Undoubtedly one of the skills of a great mentor is the ability to structure a conversation and ask the right question in the right way at the right time.

This enables the mentee to take responsibility for coming up with solutions, exploring options, challenging assumptions and gaining important professional and personal insight.

As an example, here are some useful questions you could consider for the first meeting:

• What are your expectations of this process? Of me as mentor?
• What are your expectations of yourself?
• What are your concerns?
• What would you like to achieve?
• How would you like me to assist you?
IGROW TIPS FOR THE MENTOR

The IGROW model can be a useful structure to guide a conversation in which you are striving to help the mentee identify their own areas for growth and how to achieve this growth. It is not always a linear process.

**ISSUE**
- What would you like to discuss?
- Can you tell me more about the situation?
- Of these situations you are raising, which is the most important for you to explore now?

**GOAL**
- What’s important to you when it comes to this issue?
- What will reaching the goal give you?
- What do you want to achieve in relation to this?
- How will you know you’ve reached your goal?

**REALITY**
- What, when, with whom and how often? What is the result of that?
- What are concrete examples of this problem? What’s been going wrong so far?
- What are the defining factors? What can make the difference? What have you done so far?

**OPTIONS**
- What else could you do?
- Imagine you already reached your goal. How did you do it?
- What else do you need to reach your goal? Where can you get it?
- What are the pros and cons of this option?

**WRAP UP**
- What exactly will you do to reach your goal, and when?
- What concrete step can you take NOW? What steps come after?
- How will you overcome your obstacles?
- How motivated are you, on a scale from 1 to 10, to go for this option? What do you need to have a 10?
- Will this plan get you to your goal?
### EFFECTIVE QUESTIONING

Effective questions are:

- Meaningful and easily understood by the mentee
- Simple to start to build confidence
- Gently challenging to stretch a mentee
- Open ended to help explore deeper understanding or build learning

Questions can be used throughout the IGROW model by themselves for different purposes including to focus attention, elicit new ideas, encourage exploration and foster commitment.

### QUESTION TYPES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>- Encourages the mentee to share so that you can gather the necessary information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Start with what, who, when, where, how</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probing</td>
<td>- Clarifies a point or seek more detail. For example, “Why do you think that?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Designed to uncover what is happening below the surface; what is motivating a behaviour or response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective</td>
<td>- Allows the mentee to fully explore their knowledge of a topic or situation. For example, “Can you tell me more about that?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- These questions encourage the mentee to explore an idea or issue in more depth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothetical</td>
<td>- Discussion of new ideas or approaches to a problem. For example, “What if you volunteered to take on the task?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarifying</td>
<td>- Confirm your own understanding of the situation. For example, “My understanding of what you have said is ... Is that correct?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>- Those requiring a Yes/No response and can be used to check understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading</td>
<td>- Use with care. It may imply there is only one course of action, which contradicts the ethos of mentoring. For example, “What about presenting it the way I suggested?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- These questions should ideally be avoided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7.
The table below provides a list of useful mentoring questions that can be used during your mentoring sessions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open-ended question</td>
<td>What do you feel/think about the way in which that happened?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed-ended question</td>
<td>Did you notice anything about that?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How question</td>
<td>How often has this happened? How have you managed in the past?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What question</td>
<td>What happened? What did you do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When question</td>
<td>When will you talk with them? When do you expect to be told about...?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where question</td>
<td>Where did you first encounter that?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why question</td>
<td>Why is that important to you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarification question</td>
<td>When you say ... what do you mean?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaboration question</td>
<td>Is there any other information that you would like to add? Can you tell me a little bit more about that?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenging question:</td>
<td>What makes you suspect that...? Are there any other ways of viewing the situation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Detail question</td>
<td>How frequently does that happen?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Example</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request for Example question</td>
<td>Can you give me an example of what happens when...?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miracle question (helps avoid the ‘yes, but’ response)</td>
<td>If the problems that you are experiencing are solved, what will be different?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaling question</td>
<td>On a scale of 1 - 10, where 10 reflects ... and 1 reflects ... where would you say you are? What would it take for you to move one point higher, reach number 10?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exception question</td>
<td>Can you think of a time when you did not feel...? Or when you were able to...? What was it about these times that enabled you to...?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Show me’ question</td>
<td>Can you show me what you did?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliciting Personal Meaning question</td>
<td>What do you make of that? I’m wondering about the meaning of that for you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing Agenda question</td>
<td>You’ve mentioned three areas that are of concern to you. Which one would you like to discuss first?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Oriented question</td>
<td>What would it take for things to be different? What would it take to make it possible?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confronting Inconsistencies</td>
<td>You say that you want things to change and yet you also say that you are not willing to try something different. Why is that?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FEEDBACK
Providing constructive feedback is another essential communication skill for mentoring. Constructive feedback is information specific and issue focused, delivered in a non-judgmental manner. Paying attention to the content, manner, timing and frequency are important elements in providing constructive feedback.

TIPS ON FEEDBACK
Feedback may be the single, most useful factor in self-development. Feedback can demonstrate if our behaviour, knowledge, skills or communication are achieving intended outcomes. It is information that indicates that we may need to adjust in some way, apply more effort or change our approach altogether.

Feedback in a mentoring context is equally about acknowledging progress and achievements, providing corrective suggestions and developing the mentee.

GIVING SAFE FEEDBACK
Most of us can recall a time when we obtained valuable feedback. Sometimes it can create a turning point in our career or personal lives. While feedback is valuable, it can be difficult to obtain, hard to take and even harder to give. It takes courage, caring and good communication to give effective feedback.

Consider the SAFE model.

- **S** SPECIFIC: Timely and relevant to the situation
- **A** ACTIONABLE: It must be achievable
- **F** FORWARD FOCUSED: Ensure it looks to the future
- **E** ENCOURAGING: It should motivate the mentee
DEVELOPMENT MOMENTS
It is useful to assess whether the moment is right to provide development feedback. Consider the following questions:

- Ask your mentee what they think or thought about a situation, conversation, etc.
- Ask directly: “Do you mind if I share some feedback with you?”

SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES, INSIGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES
One of the interactions that mentees value most are the opportunities for the mentor to share their experiences, not just the successes, but the failures and the lessons learned from them.

Such discussions require good rapport and high levels of trust but they offer mentees opportunities to further develop resilience and perspective from someone who ‘has been there before’.

At this stage of the relationship mutual learning can be experienced. The key to this is honesty and having the mentee’s interests as the principle reason for sharing particular experiences and perspectives.

FURTHER READING
The Mentor’s Guide: Facilitating Effective Learning Relationships

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DEALING WITH ISSUES

SERIOUS ISSUES
From time to time in the mentoring relationship, issues may arise that require tactful and careful handling. If a mentee/mentor identifies a possible or actual concern about the professional conduct of a mentee/mentor, then standard procedures for the reporting and/or management of such concerns should be followed. This ensures a standardised approach to the management of such concerns, in accordance with the provisions of relevant NSW Health policy frameworks and industrial instruments.

Encouraging self-referral, if appropriate to the particular situation, is generally the preferred approach, although the mentor will still need to follow up to ensure that referral or notification has occurred.

With appropriate notification, referral and sensitive discussion, the mentor will be acting in the mentee’s best interests in these difficult circumstances.

Effective mentors will have covered the possibility of these rare circumstances where a breach of confidentiality may be warranted, at an early point in the relationship, so that both mentoring partners are clear about their responsibilities long before the potential need arises.

These may be problematic behaviours or attitudes – ones that the mentor judges are not serving the mentee well in terms of professional and personal development. The key here is always acting in the mentee’s best interests.

The following framework may assist in keeping an appropriate focus:

- Put the mentee at core
- Honour mentees right to self determination
- Help them problem solve and offer resources

Mentors who have paid attention to the creation of a ‘safe’ space at the commencement of the relationship, one which is predicated on trust, respect and good rapport will find that difficult issues, although still difficult, are more effectively dealt with.

In preparing for a difficult conversation, the mentor might consider the following questions.27

- What would I most like to communicate?
- How do I want the other person to feel after the conversation?
- What strategy (direct or indirect) seems likely to keep them from feeling defensive?
- How emotionally charged is this likely to be?
- Should I ask permission before broaching the subject?

LESS SERIOUS ISSUES
Far more common than the circumstance described above, will be instances where the mentor forms a belief that the mentee requires some feedback about less serious, but still important issues.
PURPOSE

The purpose of this toolkit is to support your mentoring experience by providing you with a range of templates and tools that you can use throughout your mentoring relationship to guide and inform.

Each template or tool has been designed for you to use as an editable PDF or printed.

CONTENTS

Agenda: first meeting
Mentoring agreement
Mentoring code of conduct
Mentoring reflection form
Mentoring meeting notes and actions
Agenda: final meeting
AGENDA: FIRST MEETING

Introductions – find out about each other, identify common areas of interest from both a professional and personal basis

Explore what you hope to achieve by being in a mentoring relationship, don’t worry too much if this is a little vague at first

Roles and responsibilities, including expectations of each other such as who will do what? For example, booking meeting rooms

Establish boundaries including the mentoring code of conduct and mentoring agreement

How will you resolve issues?

Practical issues: where, how and when to meet and how often

Mentee to share broad goals and aspirations. You can use the Leadership and Management Framework Self-Assessment to inform this conversation at this stage or next meeting

Develop an action plan and timetable at this meeting or the next meeting

Organise subsequent meetings
MENTORING AGREEMENT

This template assists with defining the mutually agreed parameters of a mentoring partnership.

We agree that:

• Our first meeting occurred on ____________

• We will meet at least once every ____________ weeks

• Meeting times, once agreed, should not be cancelled unless this is unavoidable. At the end of each meeting we will agree a date for the next meeting.

• Each meeting will last a maximum of ____________ minutes.

• In between meetings we will contact each other by telephone/email no more than once every ____________ (weeks/days)

• Initial thoughts about the goals of the mentee are:


• Mentoring relationship and expectations have been discussed and agreed.

• **No Fault Termination:** We are committed to open and honest communication in our relationship. We will discuss and attempt to resolve any conflicts as they arise. If one of us needs to terminate the relationship for any reason, we agree to abide by one another’s decision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MENTOR</th>
<th>MENTEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>Signature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact number</td>
<td>Contact number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MENTORING
CODE OF CONDUCT

This code of conduct is designed to support mentoring partnerships and provide a framework to work within.

- The mentor’s role is to respond to the mentee’s developmental needs and agenda; it is not to impose his or her own agenda
- Mentors and mentees are committed to open, honest and courteous communication
- Mentors and mentees will maintain confidentiality in regard to information obtained in the course of the partnership
- Mentors and mentees are non-judgmental in their dealings with each other.
- Mentors and mentees observe boundaries that are consistent with the professional nature of the partnership
- Mentors and mentees respond in a timely and professional manner to their mentoring commitments
- The mentor will not intrude into areas the mentee wishes to keep private until invited to do so. However, they should help the mentee recognise how other issues may relate to those areas
- Mentor and mentee should aim to be open and truthful with each other and themselves about the relationship itself
- The mentoring relationship must not be exploitative in any way, nor can it be open to misinterpretation
- Mentors need to be aware of the limits of their own competence and operate within these limits
- The mentee must accept increasing responsibility for managing the relationship; the mentor should empower them to do so and must generally promote the mentee’s autonomy
- Mentor and mentee should respect each other’s time and other responsibilities ensuring that they do not impose beyond what is reasonable
- Mentors and mentees understand that the formal partnership will terminate at the conclusion of the mentoring partnership
- Either party may dissolve the relationship. However, both mentor and mentee have a responsibility for discussing the matter together as part of mutual learning
- The mentee should be aware of their rights and any complaints procedures

Source: Everybody Needs a Mentor: Fostering Talent in Your Organisation 28
MENTORING REFLECTION FORM

Following the completion of each mentoring session, it can be very useful to reflect on the conversation. Consider and make notes to the following questions. Consider the following points when formulating your ideas:

• your communication skills
• the dynamics of the relationship
• the role you played
• any other impressions.

Date: __________

What worked well?

What needed improvement?

How may you enhance your mentoring skills?
What strategies will you use to help enhance your skills?

Any other observations or notes?
MENTORING MEETING NOTES AND ACTIONS

To be completed during the mentoring meeting.

Date: 

Key meeting notes: 

Actions taken (and due dates as applicable): 

Questions for next session: 

AGENDA: FINAL MEETING

Review of goals and progress – what was achieved and not achieved?

What worked well in the relationship?

Significant learning’s from your time together (both mentor and mentee)

What will support the mentee to keep learning?
LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT
CAPABILITIES AND BEHAVIOURAL SELF-ASSESSMENT
Health care organisations are complex, and challenges appear to be ever evolving – with many positive innovations arising as a result.

In consideration of this complexity, Leadership and Management programs in HETI are based on a triad of leadership approaches – adaptive, collective and relational. By accessing the interface between these approaches, individuals can be supported to experience strong engaged high performing roles in NSW Health, regardless of the formal position they hold. The NSW Health Leadership and Management Framework provides an articulation of the combined capabilities that support the 6 domains of the Framework.

The following self-assessment form highlights some of the key capabilities within the Framework. It enables individuals, to reflect on their capabilities and consider which areas they already excel in, and others that they may like to develop in order to provide an even stronger service.

1. **TAKE TIME AND FIND EXAMPLES**
   Allocating uninterrupted time is essential. Reflect on the capability area and generate examples from your own work life that demonstrate the level of capability you have identified.

2. **SEEK PEER FEEDBACK**
   Test your findings with a “critical friend”, and ask them for examples as well to support their observations.

3. **CELEBRATE YOUR PROGRESS**
   Remember to review your progress, and celebrate any growth. Ensure the right people know you are growing – leverage positive change with looking for opportunities to practice skills. If there are barriers to change, then consider who best to discuss these with to find an alternate way.

For further advice – contact your Learning and Development department.
SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

This tool is designed to enable you to manage your learning and development and to help you reflect on which domains of the NSW Health Leadership and Management Framework you would like to develop further.

Remember that such an assessment is a “point in time” and can be influenced by immediate experiences.

This information belongs to you, which you may like to share with a mentor or others.

Look at each of the statements and choose a statement that best matches how it applies to you.

**ACHIEVING OUTCOMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/ NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUILDING A COMMON VISION FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I engage with others to set the direction of services and build a vision for health</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I discuss the range of factors that can impact the future of health</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>USING OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS AND CLIENTS AS WELL AS SERVICE AGREEMENTS TO DRIVE PERFORMANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I work with others to define desired outcomes for patients and clients</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I measure current performance in order to discuss progress towards outcomes</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOCUSING ON WHAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO RESULTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I help identify which factors have the biggest impact on results</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I anticipate and act on issues that could cause problems</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEING ACCOUNTABLE FOR PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I take responsibility for getting results and encourage others to do the same</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I help others access the resources they need to do their jobs well</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Developing and Leading Self

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Little/Never</th>
<th>Some of the Time</th>
<th>A Lot of the Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demonstrating Self-Awareness</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I consider how my attitudes, beliefs and behaviours affect other people</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learn from my experience and adapt my behavior accordingly</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actively Seeking Personal Growth</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I recognise and build on my strengths</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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<td>☐ × ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I actively seek out opportunities to learn and develop</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Modelling Desired Behaviours and Values</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I ‘walk the talk’ with my values and beliefs</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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<td>☐ × ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I act on the NSW Health CORE values of Collaboration, Openness, Respect and Empowerment</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taking Responsibility for Own Performance and Contribution to the Service Agreement</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think about how my own performance contributes to the larger organisational goals</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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<td>☐ × ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I persevere and stay calm when working under pressure</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Engaging People and Building Relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Little/Never</th>
<th>Some of the Time</th>
<th>A Lot of the Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilitating Effective Team Processes</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I spend time with the team exploring ways to work together more effectively</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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<td>☐ × ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I assist the team in identifying issues that affect performance</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fostering Development of Others</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I create opportunities for people from different professions to learn from each other</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
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<td>☐ × ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I provide challenges and support for others to grow their leadership skills</td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ × ☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**HARNESSING TALENT AND DIVERSITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I bring people with different perspectives together to find creative solutions</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I help people keep an open mind when considering different viewpoints</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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</table>

**CREATING WORKPLACE CULTURE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE PEOPLE CAN CONTRIBUTE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I help others identify and use their strengths</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I assist others to identify obstacles that prevent them from contributing at their best</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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</table>

**PARTNERING AND COLLABORATING ACROSS BOUNDARIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLOYING A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO TRANSFORMING THE ORGANISATION</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I work with others across formal boundaries when the need arises</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I constructively challenge work-related practices, attitudes and behaviours that don’t fit the CORE values</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MOBILISING PEOPLE TO UNDERTAKE COLLABORATIVE ACTION FOR SERVICE TRANSFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Through my own action I inspire people to collaborate for change</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I work at bringing people together from different areas to shape new service directions</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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</table>

**CREATING CROSS-SECTORIAL COLLABORATIONS TO DELIVER SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When working with stakeholders, I look for areas of agreement to develop new solutions</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I take into account the culture and interests of partner organisations</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ENCOURAGING FRESH INSIGHTS FROM DIVERSE SOURCES TO FOSTER INNOVATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I encourage others to ask questions, be creative and try out new ideas</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I build relationships with others to stimulate innovation and change</th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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</table>
### TRANSFORMING THE SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VERY LITTLE/NEVER</th>
<th>SOME OF THE TIME</th>
<th>A LOT OF THE TIME</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHAPING A PREFERRED FUTURE FOR HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I seek out and apply new information about healthcare delivery</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>I ask for and stimulate discussion about ideas for change</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEMONSTRATING CRITICAL AND SYSTEMS THINKING</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I think about the whole system and how everything fits together – patients, clients and professionals</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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<td>[ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>I consider issues and conflicts around change from different stakeholder perspectives</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSESSING AND WORKING THROUGH RESISTANCE AND OTHER IMPEDIMENTS TO CHANGE</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I seek to understand others’ perspectives including their deeper concerns and motivations</td>
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<tr>
<td>I put forward solutions that are designed to meet the needs and aspirations of all parities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BEING POLITICALLY ASTUTE AND BUILDING SUPPORT FOR CHANGE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I influence the people I am in contact with to support change</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>I help others understand how to take ownership of health reform and patient-centred care</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MANAGING FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BUILDING THE WORKFORCE FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I utilise people management processes in order to support staff wellbeing and engagement</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>I actively seek to ensure diversity and inclusion are enabled in the health workforce and patient/customer care</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROMOTING OPTIMAL ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>I negotiate with my colleagues on how best to identify our individual strengths and apply them accordingly</td>
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<tr>
<td>I align both service and individual performance goals with the NSW Health strategic priorities</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATING GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have a strong focus on the ongoing development of my commercial, economic and financial acumen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I view optimal health outcomes for patients and customers, both short and long term, as a key factor to consider whilst managing financial sustainability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANAGING QUALITY, SAFETY AND RISK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I embed risk management practices in my day to day work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I share reflections on behavior of self and others in relation to quality and safety objectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANAGING LOGISTICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I inform decisions on how goods and services are best managed to meet consumer need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I respond in an agile way to anticipated and unanticipated logistical changes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY AND DATA TO OPTIMIZE OUTCOMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I leverage technology and data to inform decisions and to optimise outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I proactively reflect on available relevant data and share key insights with key stakeholders</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEMONSTRATES PATIENT AND CUSTOMER CENTRICITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I regularly review work practices to ensure a focus on patient and customer experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I actively seek interprofessional collaboration to achieve the best possible outcome for patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOMAIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieving Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing and Leading Self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging People and Building Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnering and Collaborating Across Boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transforming the System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing For Now and the Future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REFERENCES


15. Freeman R. Towards effective mentoring


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT

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