

Better governance

Overview / Concept of topic

Building solid organisational structures and decision-making processes that foster accountability, transparency, and long-term resilience. "Governance Beyond the Boardroom"

Key take aways

- › What is good governance? Governance is about how you bring people together and organise yourselves to achieve what it is you want to achieve together.
- › Key governance issues to consider
- › Practical tools

Stakeholder Management Is Key

- › Engaging local providers early can help build capacity and foster trust.
- › Transparent communication with communities about procurement decisions helps maintain legitimacy and accountability.
- › Collaboration with regional networks can pool resources and increase bargaining power.

Mentoring Behind the Scenes

- › Governance leaders often mentor procurement officers and local partners to navigate complexity.
- › Informal mentoring helps build ethical decision-making, risk awareness, and adaptive thinking in constrained environments.

Innovative Governance Responses

- › Flexible procurement frameworks that allow for negotiation and adaptation.
- › Partnership models with NGOs, Aboriginal health services, or local councils.
- › Scenario planning and risk-sharing arrangements to manage uncertainty.
- › Call to Action

Encourage listeners to rethink governance as a relational practice.

- › In a 'thin market' where there aren't a lot of services, relationships are crucial to make sure community is supported, and these relationships need to be underpinned by good governance.
- › Health is a 'human service' so governance is often about people's values, not just operational processes.

Resource | Map Your Governance Structure

Activity:

Use this activity to reflect on your current governance structure and identify opportunities to strengthen decision-making, accountability, and alignment with your goals.

Bring this worksheet to your next team or board meeting to start a conversation about strengthening your governance practices.

Step 1: Map Your Governance Structure

Who are the key people or groups involved in governance in your organisation?
(Think about your board, leadership team, advisory groups, or committees.)

Use the space below to draw or describe your current structure:

Step 2: Reflect on Decision-Making

How are decisions made in your organisation?

- > Who makes them?
- > How are decisions communicated?
- > Are roles clear?

Write your observations below:

Step 3: Governance Documents

Do you have governance documents in your organisation?
If so, what are they? e.g. Constitution, Steering Committee
Terms of Reference, Strategic Plan.

Are there any governance arrangements that aren't
written down? Do you think they should be?
Why / why not?

Step 4: Plan a Practical Next Step

What is one thing you or your team can do in the next month to strengthen governance in your organisation?