

Course Overview

Fundamentals in decision-making & demographic change using a systems thinking framework

An intensive, two day, intentional, professional learning experience



Overview

The policy-making environment is increasingly demanding data-informed and evidence-based foundations. This course will provide you with the knowledge and tools to:

- Understand the inter-connected relationship between policy settings and socio-demographic change
- Better understand the context - the why - underpinning the data and evidence
- How best to influence desired outcomes through policy development; and
- Enable anticipation - and mitigation - of unintended consequences.

The course is grounded in four key theoretical frameworks and their application in policy-setting:

- Systems thinking
- Theories of demographic change
- Principles of the life course
- The iceberg model

Day 1 will focus on foundational knowledge building and the inter-connection of the first three theoretical frameworks.

Day 2 will introduce the Iceberg Model and focus on applying the new-found or deepened knowledge to current everyday scenarios and the decision-making process.

Intended learning outcomes

- Define key characteristics of a system and types of systems
- Demonstrate understanding of system behaviour by analysing real-world examples
- Explain and distinguish between different types of thinking in the decision-making process
- Clearly articulate what systems thinking is and is not
- Identify in what circumstances to use different types of thinking
- Explain the key principles of the life course and how life course trajectories have changed over time
- Understand and explain how the demographic transition and theories of migration influence demographic change
- Build awareness and understanding of the interconnectedness of decision-making and demographic change and the ability to explain the relationship
- Identify obstacles in the decision-making process to achieving desired outcomes
- Apply a systems thinking lens to predict – and mitigate - socio-demographic outcomes from policy-making decisions.

