



Developing effective mindful leadership programs

To support the development of theoretically guided mindful leadership programs, it is helpful to consider the key question: What are the kinds of skills, competencies, capabilities or qualities that different types of mindfulness programs are expected or required to deliver? And what identifiable behaviors, accomplishments and outcomes are intended or achieved?

The following tables outline such capabilities. The descriptions provided are deliberately generic to allow for adaptation to diverse contexts and purposes. For further explanation, see The Wheel of Mindfulness: A Generative Framework for Second-Generation Mindful Leadership by Dr. Elizabeth King and Dr. Richard Badham. The paper is available upon request.

Knowing That

	INDIVIDUAL	COLLECTIVE
	Incongruity Subordination to self-imposed quests	Incongruity Contradictions between economic & social/ecological objectives
SUBSTANTIVE	Impermanence Fluid cognitive constructions of purpose	Impermance Instability, uncertainty & lack of sustainability in global systems
	Identification Commercial self-centred entrapments	Identification Organized irresponsibility
	Incongruity Twin arrows & surplus suffering	Incongruity Risk of disaster from rigid & divergent views of group tasks & individual contributions
INSTRUMENTAL	Impermanence Present momentness & the transience of thoughts, feelings, sensations	Impermanence Unpredictable emergence & situational contingencies in group endeavours
	Identification Metacognition & reflexivity on self-narratives	Identification Entrapments of habituated groupthink



MINDFUL

Knowing How

	INDIVIDUAL	COLLECTIVE
SUBSTANTIVE	Awareness Of subordination to transient, self-imposed & commercialised self-centredness & control	Awareness Of organized irresponsibility & contradictions between economic & social/sustainability concerns
	Attention Attention regulation & disciplined meta-cognition of such forms of subordination	Attention Collective attention regulation & disciplined meta-cognition of narrow & contradictory group purposes
	Acceptance Openness, curiosity & compassion towards such entrapments & their transcendence	Acceptance Openness, curiosity & compassion towards transcending tensions in complex purposive systems
INSTRUMENTAL	Awareness Of the twin arrows, present- momentness & the self- narrated nature of experience	Awareness Of the emergent & situated nature of collective action & risks of partial & habituated viewpoints
	Attention Attention regulation & disciplined meta-cognition of above individual experiences	Attention Collective attention regulation & disciplined metacognition applied to such experiences
	Acceptance Open, curious & compassionate attendance to the above experiences	Acceptance Open, curious & compassionate attendance to the experimental & risky nature of group endeavour



MINDFUL LEADERSHIP

Showing How

QUADRANTS	BEHAVIOURAL OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
INDIVIDUAL MINDFULNESS	Demonstrated awareness of self, others & complex environments	e.g low levels of stress
	Demonstrated regulation of attention & double loop reflective metacognition	e.g. select, sustain & switch attention
	Demonstrated calm & equanimity in reacting to stress & attending to relationships	e.g. cooperative social relationships
COLLECTIVE MINDFULNESS	Established mindful infrastructures	e.g. low levels of accidents
	Demonstrated mindful organizing values, behaviours and practices	e.g. high levels of goal attainment in collective projects
INDIVIDUAL WISDOM	Demonstrated meta-skills of self-awareness in establishing purpose & controls	e.g. level of engagement with goals and direction of action
	Demonstrated meta-abilities in self-regulating behaviour based on such awareness	e.g. rapid & effective redirection in response to unpredicted crises
	Demonstrated meta-qualities in open, curious & compassionate responses to challenges	e.g. level of experimental initiatives & achievements
COLLECTIVE WISDOM	Demonstrated institutional reflection on organized irresponsibility & socioeconomic contradictions	e.g. level of resourcing & scope of corporate social responsibility
	Established routines, practices & structures attending to such concerns	e.g. operational outcomes achieved by following principles & procedures

ABOUT DR LIZ KING



Dr. Liz King is a globally recognised authority on safety leadership and high-reliability organisations (HRO), renowned for her expertise in fostering performance and safety in high-risk environments. Her extensive research bridges the gap between theoretical insights and practical application, making her a trusted partner for organisations navigating complexity and uncertainty.

Dr. King's PhD, conducted within a global engineering company, focused on leadership and performance in uncertainty, integrating HRO principles to drive safety and reliability in dynamic settings. Building on this foundation, her recent research explores safety and performance in the elite, high-stakes context of ocean racing. This multi-year, multi-method study reveals critical insights into the behaviours and systems that underpin resilience and safety under pressure, detailed in her published papers and books.

With academic credentials spanning a PhD in Performance, a Master's in Coaching Psychology, an MBA, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology, Dr. King combines scholarly rigour with real-world relevance. Her leadership development programs are built on evidence-based approaches, empowering leaders to embed safety as a core organisational value while excelling in high-stakes environments. Dr. King's work reflects her commitment to fostering accountability, transparency, and sustainability in leadership, making her a highly sought-after expert for organisations seeking to advance safety and performance.

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