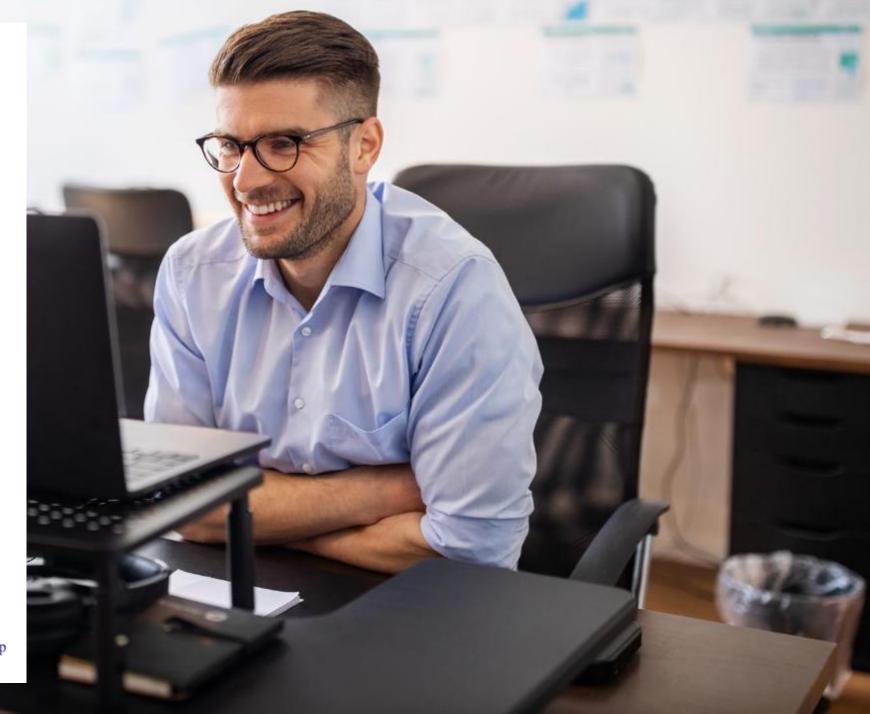
Improve
Performance and
Client Outcomes
by Building Hightrust
Relationships

Deborah Assheton

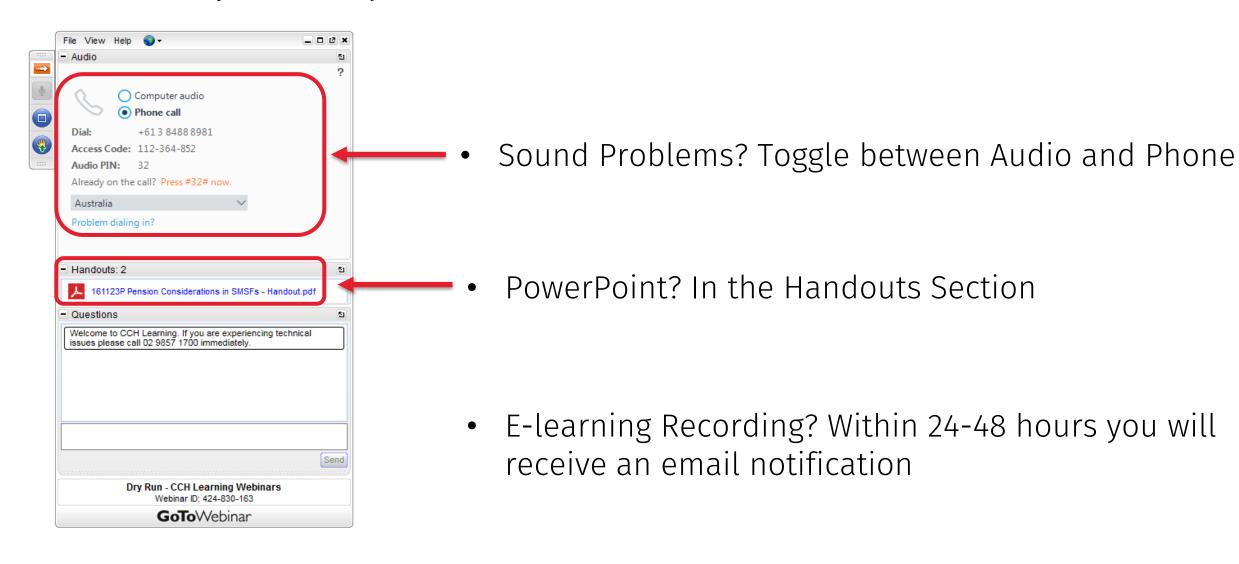
Thursday 8 February 2024







#### How to Participate Today



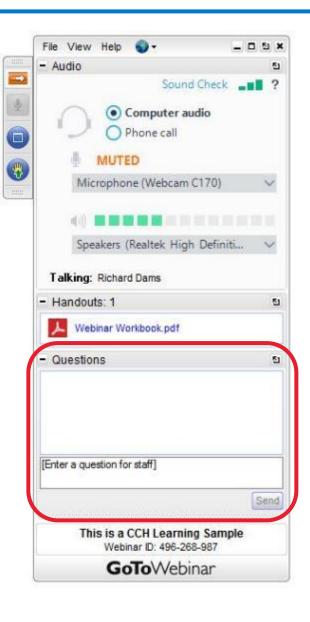
# Questions?





Susannah Gynther Moderator

Type your question and hit Send





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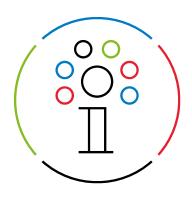
## Your Presenter



- Deb Assheton
- Director
- The Amplify Group



# Today's session will cover

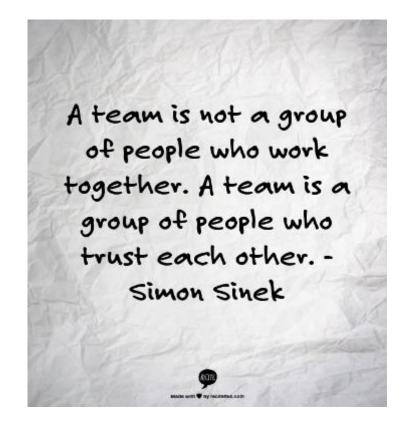


Improve client outcomes and performance by building high-trust relationships

- 1. What is trust?
- 2. The impact of levels of trust
- 3. The four cores of personal trust
- 4. The features of high trust environments
- 5. Building and re-building trust

## What is Trust?

"A firm and hopeful reliance on the fidelity, integrity, or ability of a person or thing"







# POLL: Generally speaking, the level of trust across my workplace is...



- a) High
- b) Moderate
- c) Inconsistent
- d) Low
- e) None of these



POLL: When you have little or no trust in someone, how do you behave?



a) Free text response



#### Trust myths....

Myth	Reality
Trust is soft	Trust is real, observable, quantifiable, measurable and affects speed and cost
Trust is slow and takes time	Trust is evaluated quickly and intuitively, and makes everything else move faster
Trust is built on integrity	Trust is a function of character and competence
Trust is either/or, black and white. You have it or you don't	Trust can be both built and destroyed
Once lost or broken, trust cannot be restored	Lost trust can be restored
You can't teach trust	Trust can be taught, learned and used as a strategic advantage
Trusting people is risky	Not trusting people has greater cost
Trust is established one person at a time	Trust can be established with many people at once

Source: Adapted from The Speed of Trust. Stephen M. R. Covey, 2017





#### The business of Trust

- Employees working in high-trust organisations are more productive, have more energy at work, collaborate better with their colleagues, and stay with their employer longer than people working at low-trust companies. They also suffer less chronic stress and are happier with their lives, and these factors fuel stronger performance
- Compared to low-trust companies, High-trust companies report 74% less stress, 106% more energy at work, 50% higher productivity, 13% fewer sick days, 76% more engagement, 20% more satisfaction with their lives, and 40% less burnout
- Returns to shareholders over more than a decade are almost 3 times higher from organisations with high-trust cultures, than a low-trust culture.
- Lack of trust is considered a team dysfunction in Patrick Lencioni's work, it is the foundation of team performance.

Sources: The Speed of Trust. Stephen M. R. Covey, 2017, Watson Wyatt, 2022, Harvard Business Review, March 2017. Lencioni, 5 dysfunctions of a team, <a href="https://www.thetablegroup.com">www.thetablegroup.com</a>



#### Trust is an aspect of relationship quality



- Dysfunctional delivery
- Often in legal disputes
- Severed relationships
- Disconnect feels beyond salvage
- Other options are being sought
- Zero confidence in the possibility of repair

- Threat-based motivation
- Use of formal power and structures
- Focus is self-protection •
- Regular disputes
- Dysfunctional stakeholder interactions

- Focus alternates between formal and inter-relational power
- Interactions between stakeholders are inconsistent
- Disputes arise regularly and may not be fully resolved
- Tensions exists between stakeholders
- Execution and performance are occurring below expectations

- Compliance as the contract or formal agreement
- Party's goals are understood and considered
- Execution is effective, and performance as anticipated or to metrics most of the time
- Disputes are resolved when required

- Clear alignment on each party's goals
- Parties work together pro-actively with all stakeholder interests in mind
- Performance is strong
- Execution is effective
- Parties will expand interactions
- Parties both benefit equally

- The parties share a single goal
- Alignment on principles
- Long-term horizon
- Trust based agreements
- Explicit unity
- Focus is mutual benefit
- Multi layered stakeholder alignment

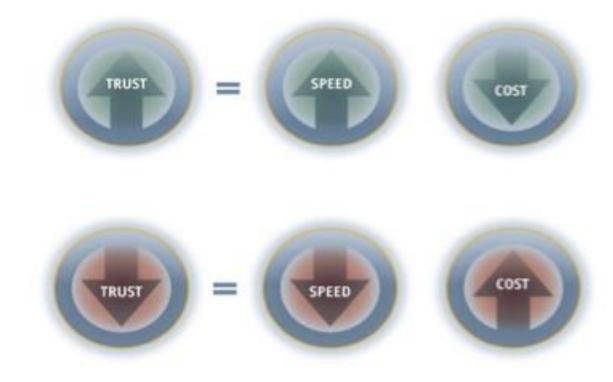
No Trust

**High Trust** 





#### The economics of Trust



"Transcendent values like trust and integrity literally translate into revenue, profits and prosperity"

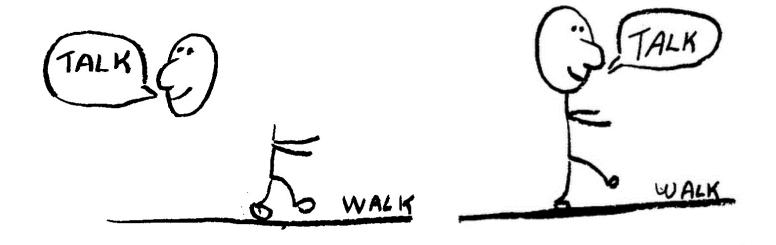
Patricia Aburdene

Source: Franklin Covey, 2017 Vernon Smith, 2013, Balance Sheet crises, causes and responses Patricia Aburdene, Megatrends, The rise of conscious capitalism, 2010)



#### Trust in practice Facilitate Recognise whole-Enable job Excellence crafting person growth 8 Practices of high-trust Intentionally Induce cultures build challenge relationships stress Give people Share Show discretion in information Vulnerability how they broadly work The four core's of **Personal Trust** Capability Results Integrity Intent

### 1 Integrity

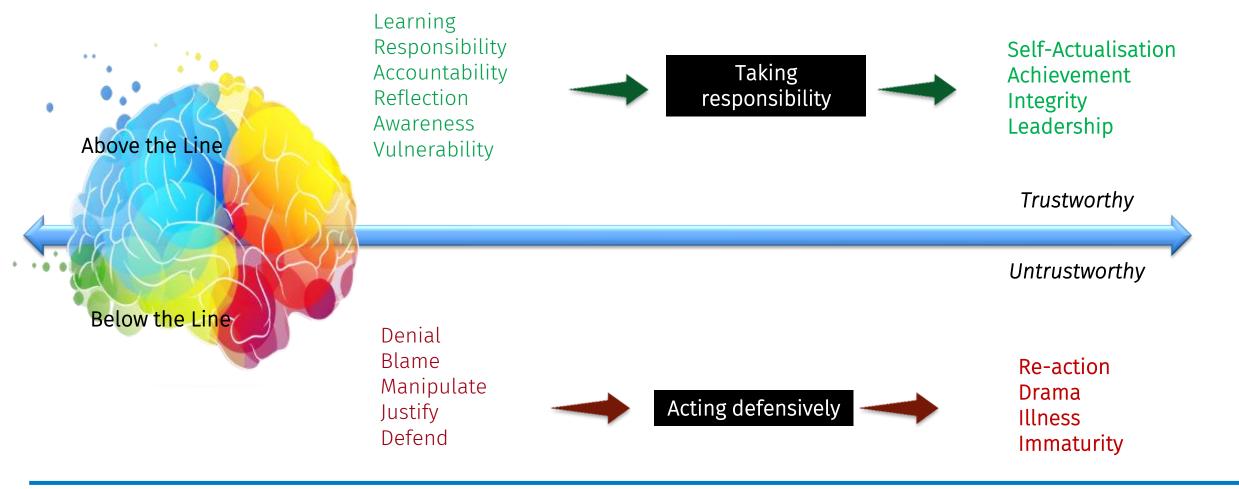


Integrity is more than honesty. It means to be integral or an integrated person. That is, a person who is congruent inside and outside.

An integral person acts in alignment with their values and beliefs

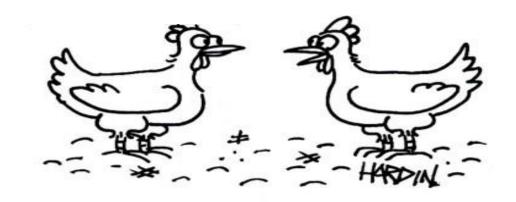
What does this mean in practice?

#### Above or Below the Line



16

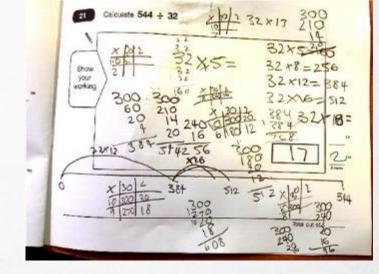
#### Intent & share information broadly

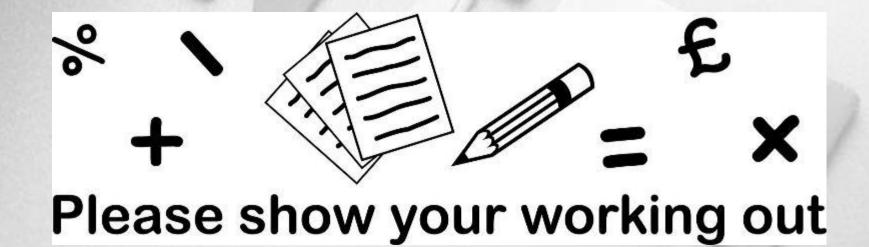


"Just once I'd like to cross the road without anyone, Questioning my motives."



# **Explicit Intent**





#### Share information broadly

Only 40% of employees report that they are well informed about their company's goals, strategies, tactics and progress

Poor or low communication levels increase anxiety, chronic stress, and create pervasive distrust of motives among employees

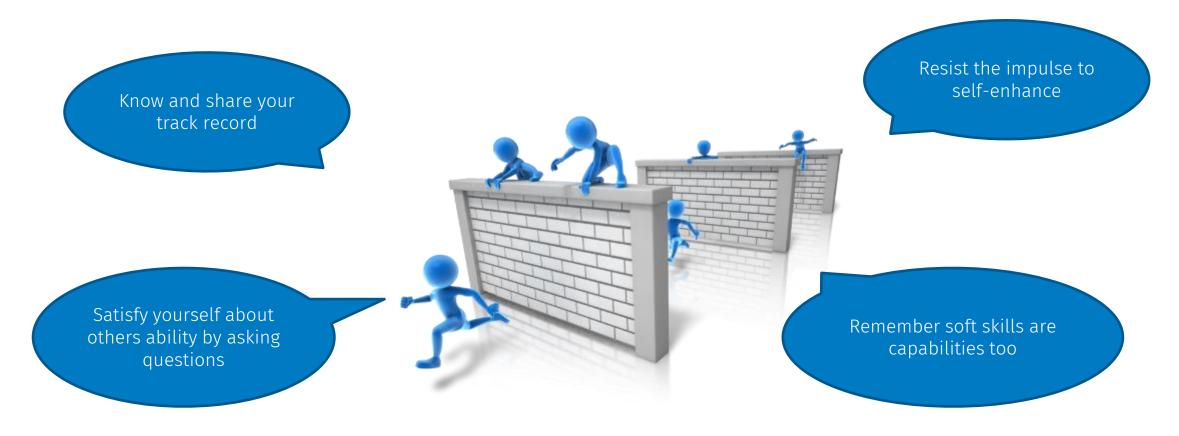
A 2015 study of 2.5 million manager-led teams across 195 countries found that workforce engagement improved when managers had some form of daily communication with direct reports

Source: The Speed of Trust. Stephen M. R. Covey, 2017, Watson Wyatt, 2002, Harvard Business Review, March 2017



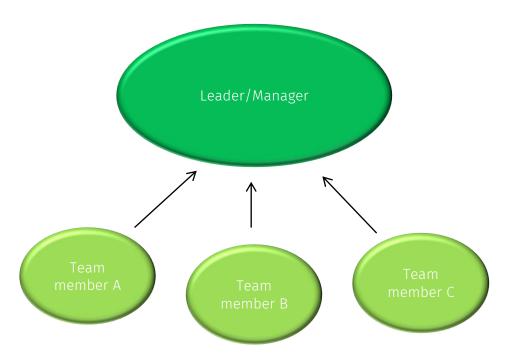
#### Capability & Results

The power or ability to do something

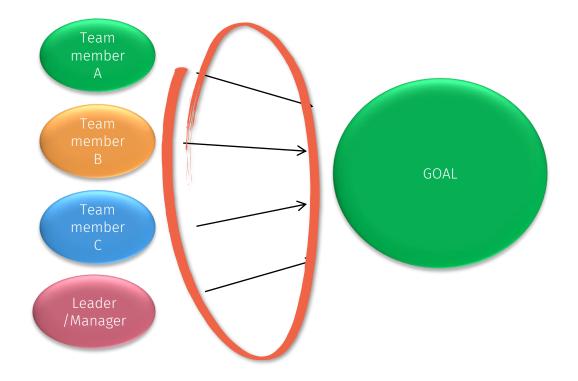


#### Focus your team on Goals and Results

Typical team orientation



High-performance orientation



#### Recognise Excellence

#### Recognition is most impactful on Trust when it meets the following criteria:

- ✓ It is timely, as in almost immediately after goal achievement
- ✓ It comes from peers
- ✓ It is tangible
- ✓ It is personalised
- ✓ It is public



#### 2 Induce challenge stress

#### **Hindrance Stressors**

- Stressful demands that are perceived as hindering progress toward personal accomplishments or goal attainment
- Trigger Cortisol
- Intensify fight, flight or freeze responses



#### **Challenge Stressors**

- Stressful demands that are perceived as opportunities for learning, growth and achievement
- Must have a concrete end point
- Work best with clear progress points
- Trigger Oxytocin
- Intensify focus and strengthen social connections



#### Give people discretion in how they work & job craft where you can



#### Low-Trust Manager

- Constantly checking-in
- Requires constant updates
- Looking over your shoulder
- Can only assign can't delegate
- Tells you what and how to do something
- Solicits little or no input

#### High-Trust Manager

- Delegates effectively
- Clear Objectives
- Clear role clarity
- Helps solve problems
- Gets out of the way
- Manages the boundaries

Job crafting captures the active changes employees make to their own job designs in ways that can bring about numerous positive outcomes, including engagement, job satisfaction, resilience, and thriving. University of Michigan





#### Reflecting on trust

- 1. What opportunities exist for us to recognise excellence?
- 2. How can we create more effective challenge stress?
- 3. Who in our firm is working on solving our biggest problems, or capitalising on our biggest opportunities?
- 4. Does the way I/we work and delegate demonstrate that we trust people to deliver
- 5. Where are the opportunities for our people to job craft?
- 6. When is okay to be vulnerable at our firm? When is it not okay to be vulnerable at our firm?
- 7. Where could we be communicating better more explicitly, broadly and effectively

#### Strategies for low trust environments or people

Be conscious about your absence of trust. You don't have to share that you lack trust, just be clear with yourself, and:

- Set clear expectations and check for understanding
- Ask more questions
- Check in more often
- Make sure you balance positive and constructive feedback
- Do not put off giving feedback
- Manage your emotions tightly take your time, respond when calm
- Both discuss and put the important matters in writing expectations, commitments, minutes
- Explicitly discuss where there is alignment and where there is not work toward common ground
- Stay above the line, and think the long game



#### Calling out a trust breach

- 1. You don't always have to call out a trust breach. Where you think it may come across as judgmental, it may be better not to state it
- 2. Where the trust is non-existent it's better not to call it out, and instead focus on your behaviour/actions/choices from Above the Line. Stay constructive.
- 3. You can use the approaches on the previous page to provide some confidence in the absence of trust
- 4. Where you do state it, be careful not to accuse. Some ways to frame it can be...
  - Although I understand it wasn't your intention, this situation/action has impacted my level of trust in you. I would like us to be able to rebuild that trust. Would you?
  - It's going to take some time to rebuild trust. I would like us to work toward trusting each other again, would you?

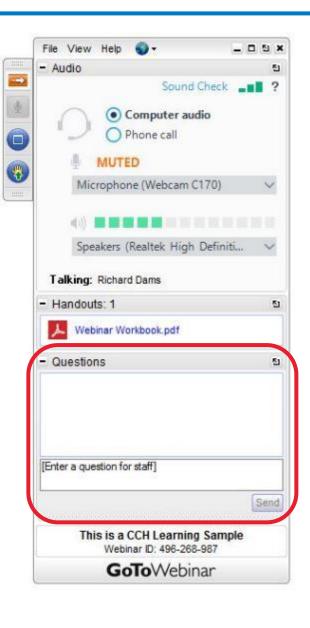
# Questions?





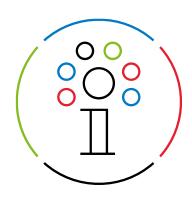
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Type your question and hit Send





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- 20 February Tax Technical Update January & February 2024



# Questions



- Deborah Assheton
- Director
- The Amplify Group
- 0425 214 215
- deb@theamplifygroup.com.au



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