Scalability and scaling in and across place

A practical framework for complexity-informed evaluation practice

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Scale is a form of contested practice

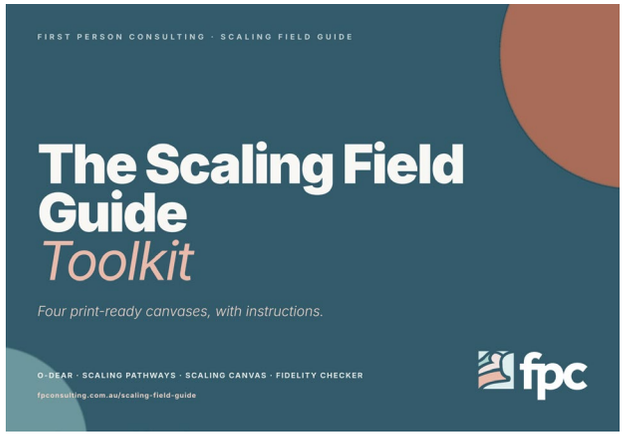


Scale is a matter of asking questions



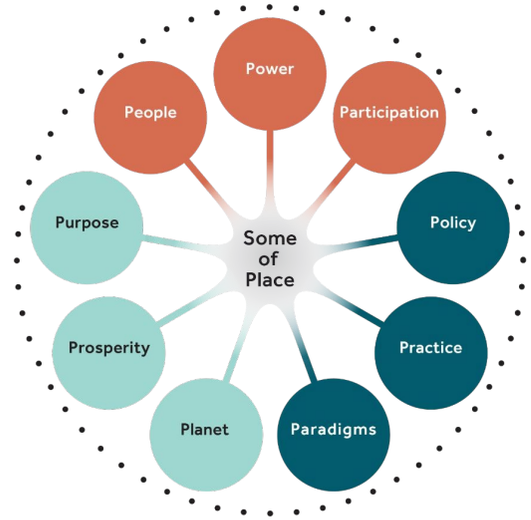
The Scaling Field Guide Applied to Some of Place

01



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02



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03

Today!

The Scaling Field Guide

01

Scalability

Should we scale?

O-DEAR

02

Scaling

How will we scale?

Scaling Pathways
Scaling Canvas

03

Scale

Is it still working?

Fidelity Checker

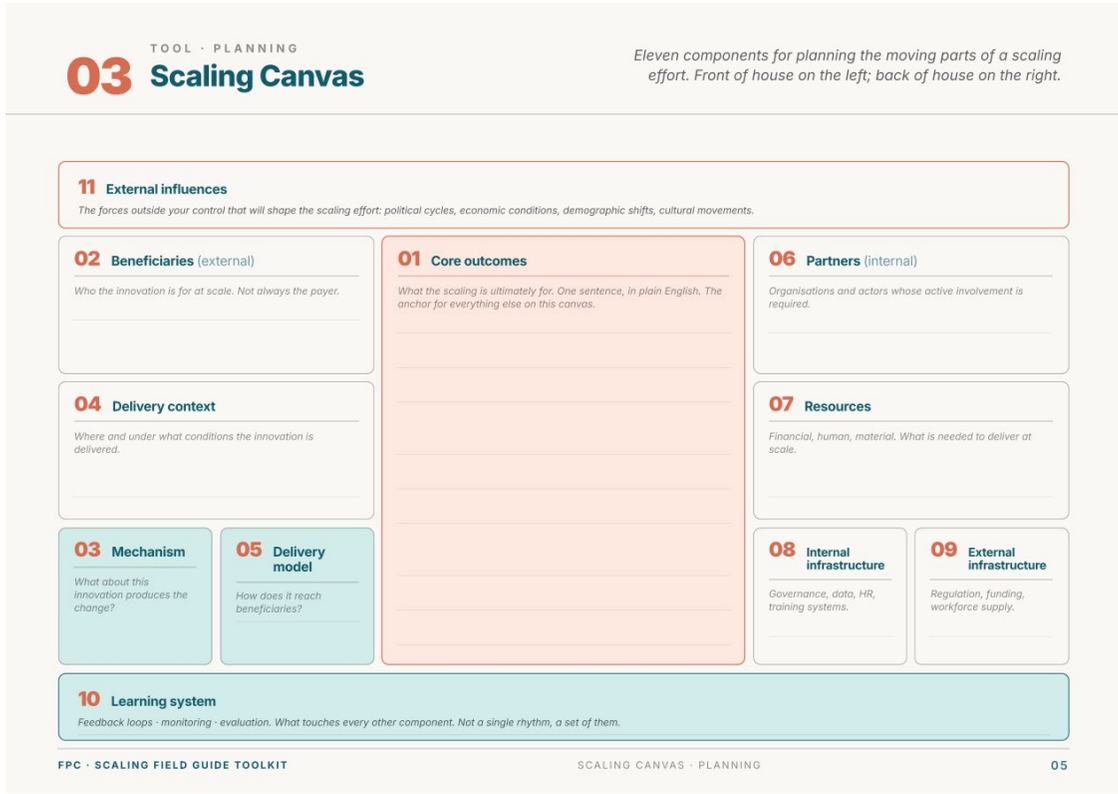
These questions recur as the approach, evidence and conditions change.

The O-DEAR questions

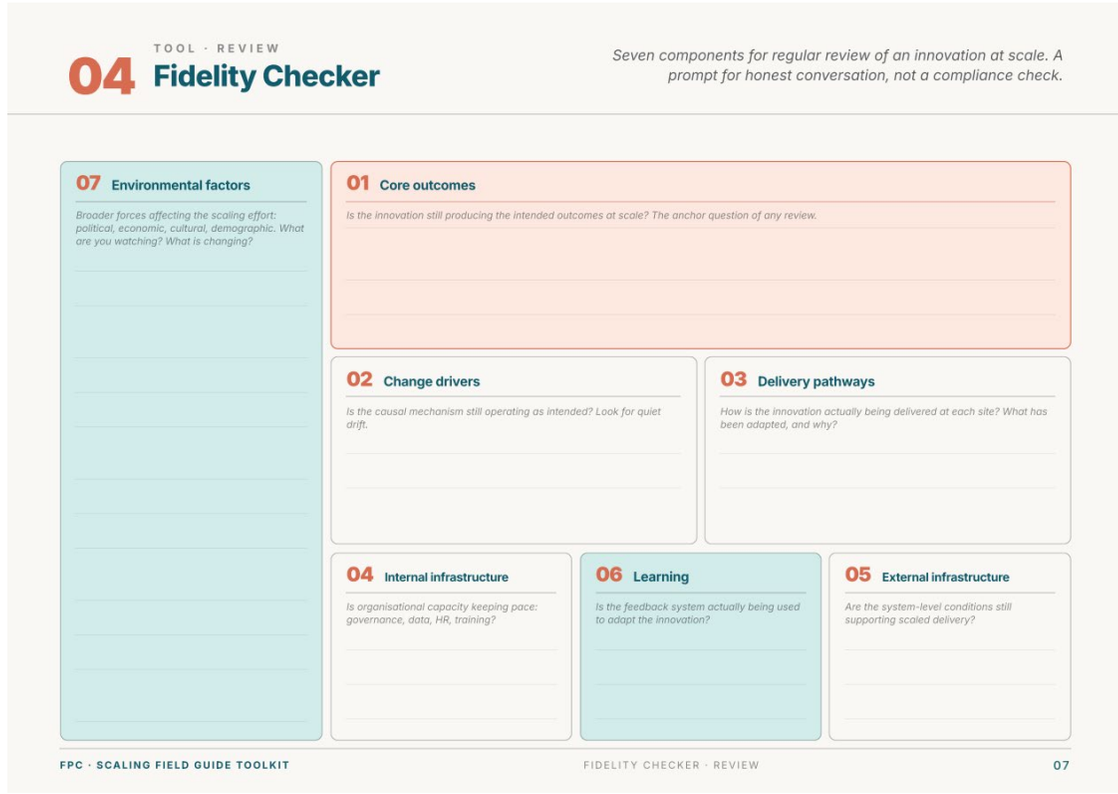
O	**Organisational clarity**	Does scaling this align with our mission, strategic priorities, and capacity?
D	**Describable**	Can we name the mechanism(s) of change in plain language?
E	**Effectiveness**	Does the innovation produce the intended outcomes?
A	**Adaptability**	What is fixed and what can flex?
R	**Reach**	Will the intended population actually engage at the proposed scale?

Planning and ongoing evaluation

Scaling Canvas

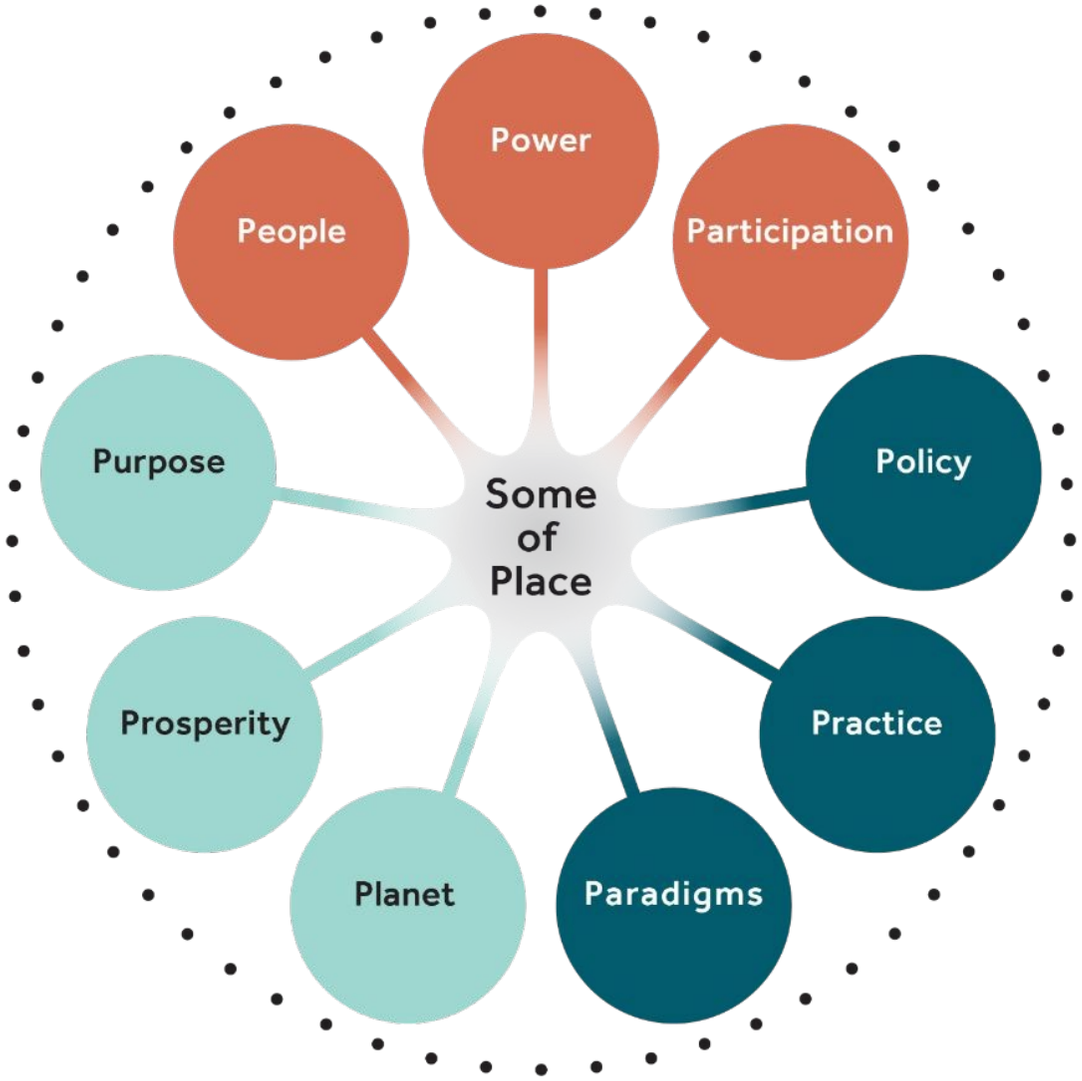


Fidelity Checker



The mechanism, delivery arrangements and learning system connect planning with review.

The Some of Place framework



Nine Ps

A vocabulary for the dimensions of place.

The space between

Interactions can explain how outcomes emerge.

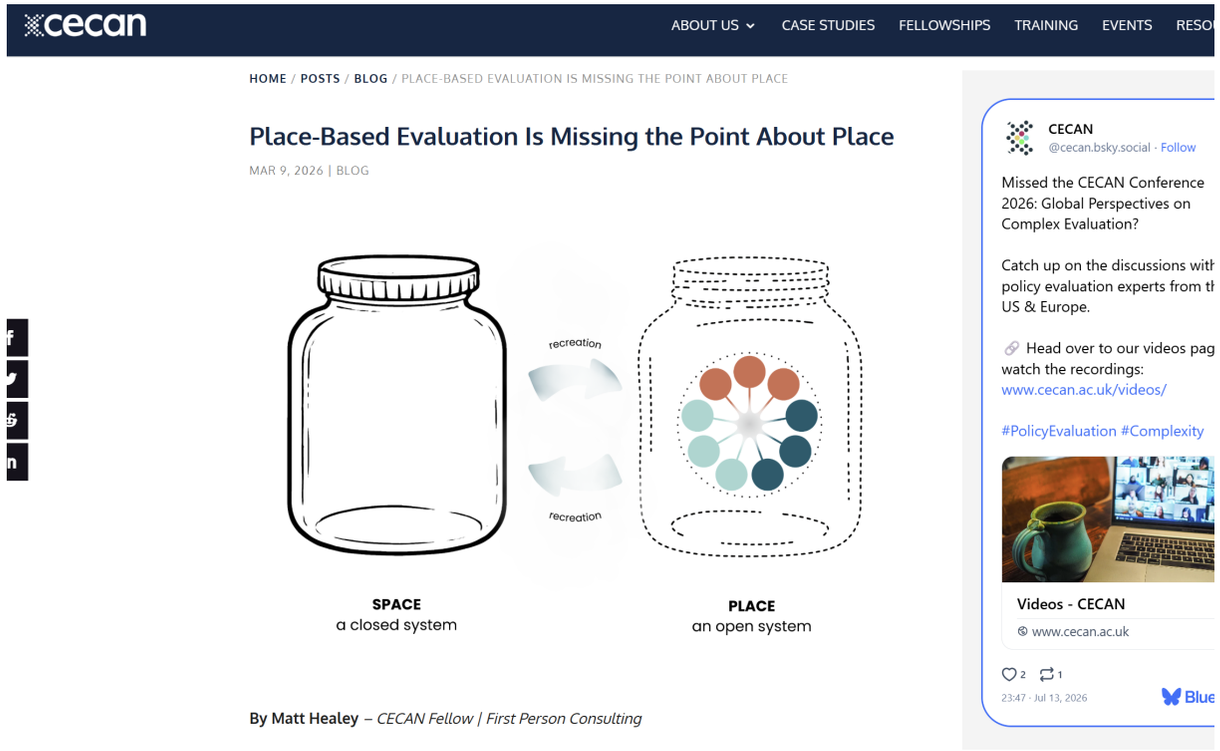
Time bounding

Funding cycles, local rhythms and cross-generational connection

Some-ness

Our accounts are partial and situated.

The Some of Place framework



https://www.cecan.ac.uk/blog/place-based-evaluation-is-missing-the-point-about-place/



https://www.cecan.ac.uk/events/cecan-webinar-place-based-evaluation-is-missing-the-point-about-place/

SO-DEAR begins with Situate

What are we seeking to scale, in which place or places, and why?



S / Situate

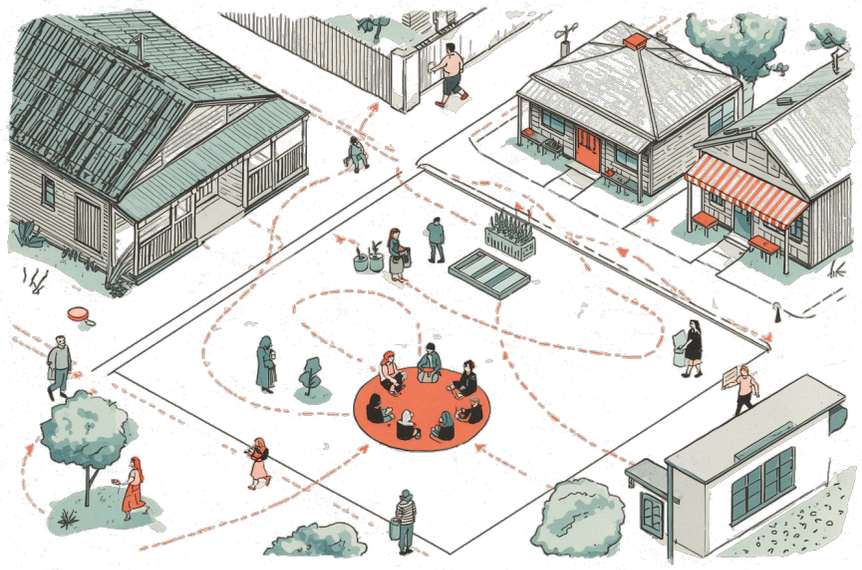
Explore how place affects the proposition

Return to the existing O-DEAR questions

The approach and the conditions of place contribute to the benefits we want to scale, and in what forms.

Scaling in place and across places

IN PLACE



ACROSS PLACES



The coral gathering spaces suggest a related approach taking different local forms.

Deeper benefits, better functioning or wider participation here

Benefits through different local relationships and arrangements

Neighbourhood Connect

At the neighbourhood house

Local connectors take time to listen and introduce residents to support services. Residents help shape the approach.

What we know

Participants describe feeling heard and finding useful support. Records show completed introductions.

The proposed expansion

Reach shift workers and other residents who rarely access the neighbourhood house. New funding could add connectors, with monthly referral targets.

We have yet to hear from people who do not use the house.

Fictional workshop case

1. What are we seeking to scale?

What would change, for whom, and towards which benefit?

The proposal would reach evening workers and other residents who rarely use the neighbourhood house.

In pairs / 2 minutes

With your partner, describe the proposal in one sentence.

We want to extend … so that …

2. What is working, and how?

What benefit do we see, and what might explain it?

Participants describe feeling heard and finding useful support. Records show completed introductions.

In pairs / 2 minutes

Discuss what the evidence tells us, and one possible explanation.

We know … / We think this may happen because …

3. How does place matter?

How could the expansion change the conditions that support benefit?

New funding brings monthly referral targets. Connectors currently have time to listen and follow up.

In pairs / 2 minutes

Trace one possible effect on residents. Whose perspective is missing?

If … changes, this could affect … because …

4. What might hold, adapt or develop?

What might we keep, change or develop in this neighbourhood?

The proposal aims to reach people who rarely use the house. The coordinator maintains many local relationships.

In pairs / 2 minutes

Discuss what might hold, adapt or develop locally, and why.

Hold … / Adapt … / Develop locally …

5. What does this mean for scaling?

What would you recommend now, and what do you need to learn?

Evening workers' views remain unknown. Referral targets could affect listening time and trust.

In pairs / 2 minutes

Agree a provisional decision and one question to investigate with residents.

We would … once we have learnt … with …

Using the Fidelity Checker later

If an expansion goes ahead, revisit what supports benefit

01 Core outcomes	Are existing and new residents finding useful support?
02 Change drivers	Does listening still help people feel heard and seek support?
06 Learning	What evidence would lead us to change the approach?

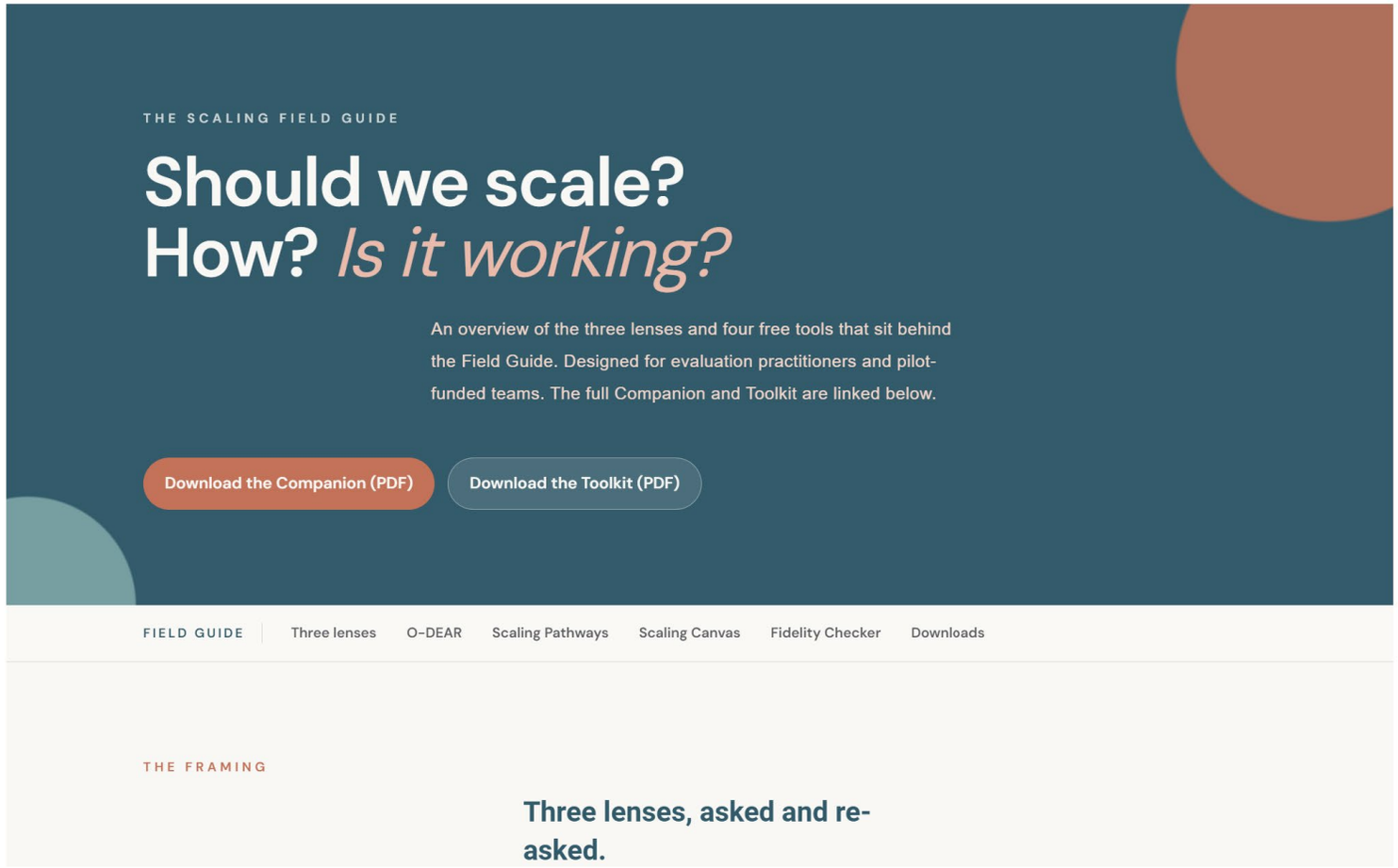
Residents and connectors review experiences alongside referral records.

A worked Fidelity Checker example

A proposed review for Neighbourhood Connect

01	**Core outcomes**	**Are existing and new residents finding useful support?** Resident accounts alongside referral records.
02	**Change drivers**	**Does listening still help people feel heard and seek support?** Ask about rushed contact and follow-up; explore other explanations.
06	**Learning**	**Review together; agree when evidence should prompt action.** Propose a six-week review. Repeated concerns could change targets, staffing or pace.

Reflection



https://www.fpconsulting.com.au/scaling-field-guide

Thank you



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