# IDENTIFYING HIGH POTENTIAL EXPERTS USING THE EXPERTUNITY TALENT MODEL





## **AGENDA**

- 1. The case for building expert capability
- 2. Challenges with identifying experts who are high potential
- 3. How to do it a process

Hosts: Alistair Gordon & Darin Fox



# The Future of Work relies on harnessing expertise

## **FOUR GLOBAL TRENDS**

## INCREASING COMPLEXITY

As complexity increases, strategy gets harder.

Your experts can no longer be viewed as "service providers" but as strategic partners, developing and evolving your strategy continually, in real-time.

## STEM SUPPLY & DEMAND

STEM jobs are growing twice as fast in Australia as any other job and closing the global skills gap could add US\$11.5 trillion to global GDP.

The ability to attract, retain and develop technical talent will become a key source of competitive advantage.

## **EXPONENTIAL DATA & NOISE**

In a world overloaded with data and misinformation, your experts are best placed to identify the right information, complex connections and logical actions to take.

## HYBRID MODELS

Organisations are organised for managers and workflow, not the flow of information and knowledge.

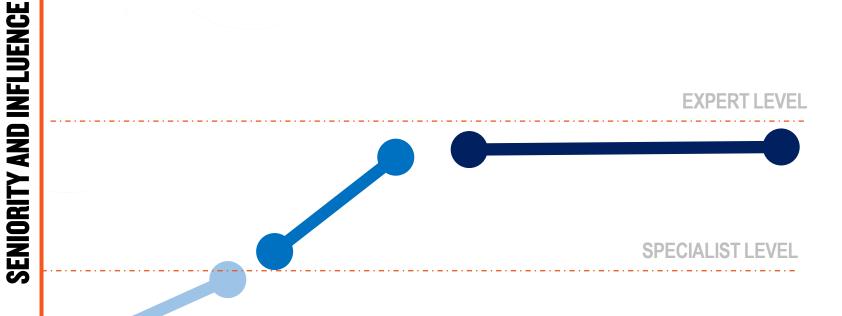
The most successful companies are building new organisational models and practices which optimise the flow of ideas, knowledge and learning.



## WHY INVEST IN EXPERT TALENT?



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**YEARS AN EXPERT** 

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#### MIDDLE YEARS

Acquisition of more technical knowledge skills, and many experiences

#### **EARLY YEARS**

Acquisition of technical knowledge and skills

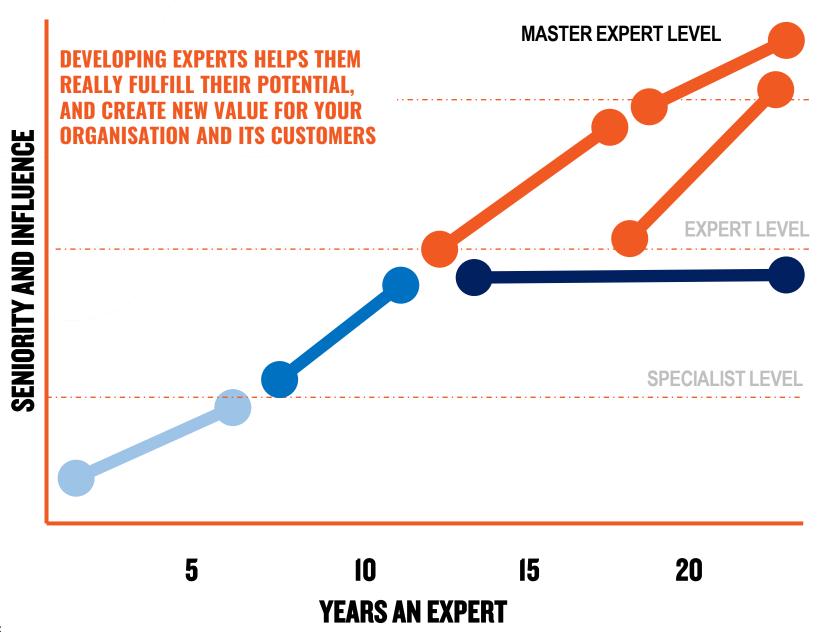
#### **LATER YEARS**

Hits technical ceiling, continues with increasingly repetitive work. Can get stuck.



5

## WHY INVEST IN EXPERT TALENT?



#### LATER YEARS

Builds enterprise skills on top of technical skills via expertship programs. Greater influence, involvement, and impact. Many career choices, and in demand.

#### **MIDDLE YEARS**

Acquisition of more technical knowledge skills, and many experiences

#### **EARLY YEARS**

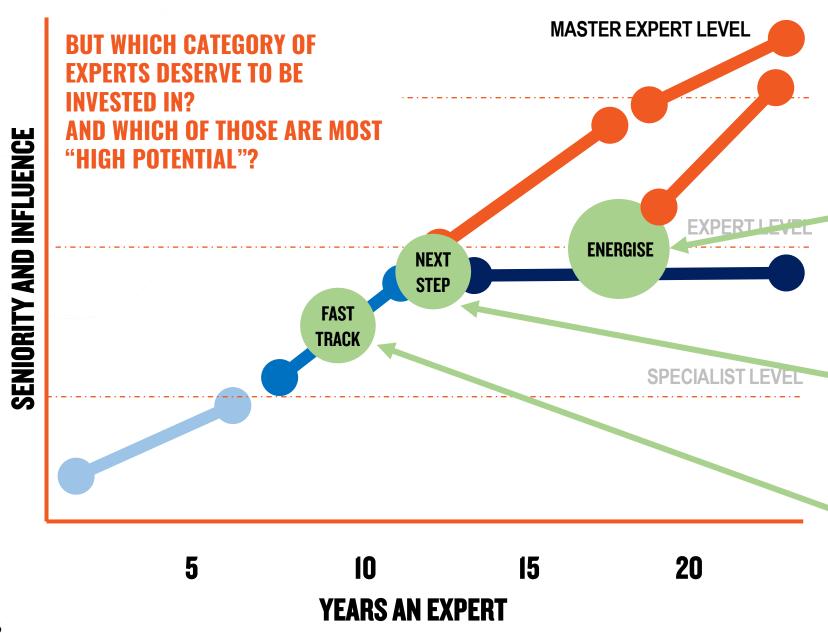
Acquisition of technical knowledge and skills

#### **LATER YEARS**

Hits technical ceiling, continues with increasingly repetitive work. Can get stuck.



## WHY INVEST IN EXPERT TALENT?



### **ENERGISE**

Identify Experts who feel like they have plateaued, but know they have so much more to give. They need to build influence, executive presence, and market skills.

### **NEXT STEP**

Identify Experts who are totally competent from a technical perspective, but need enterprise skills to continue to grow.

### **FAST TRACK**

Identify rising talent and accelerate their growth towards full potential.



## WHY IS IDENTIFYING EXPERTS WITH POTENTIAL DIFFICULT?

## EXPERTS CONTRIBUTION UNDER-VALUED

- Expert roles are difficult to understand
- Value creation by experts can be invisible
- Experts are rarely invited leadership and strategic forums

BARRIERS TO IDENTIFYING EXPERT POTENTIAL

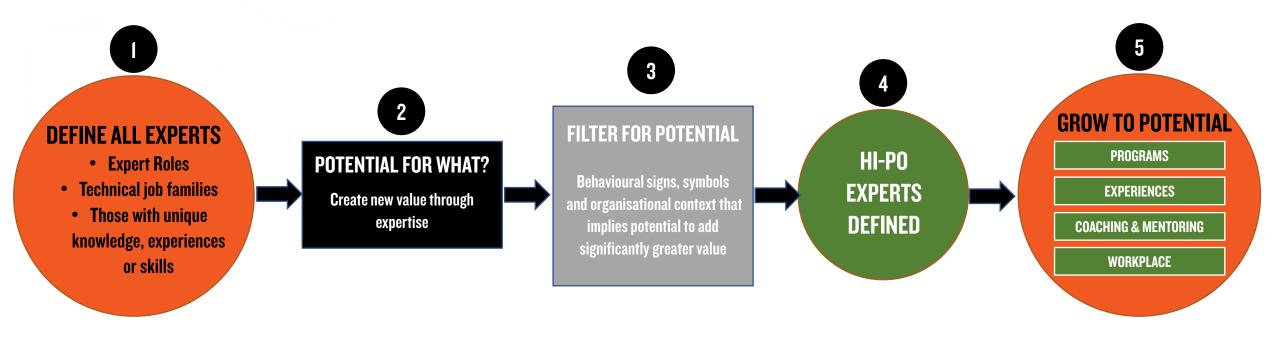
#### **SELECTION BIAS**

- Experts are different
- Assessment of potential done by non-experts
- Human bias halo/horns, similar-to-me, status-quo bias, confirmation bias
- Pop-Culture, media, myths and legends about "experts"

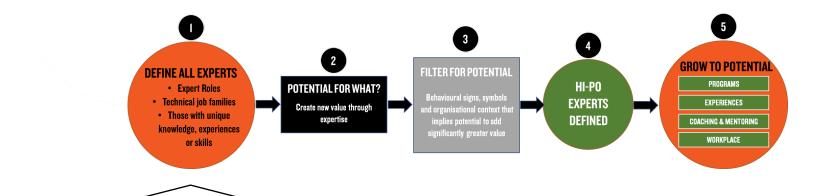
#### **MIS-ALIGNED SYSTEMS**

- The 9-Box Grid narrow definition of potential
- Remuneration
- No technical career stream
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Organizational silos
- No differentiated programs





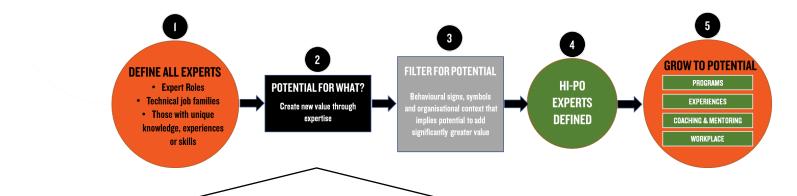




#### THE DEFINITION OF AN EXPERT ROLE

- 1. Widely recognized as a reliable source of knowledge, technique, or skill that is demonstrably greater than their stakeholders.
- 2. Has a proven track record of success in applying this knowledge to real-world problems and opportunities.
- 3. Judgment and insight is accorded authority and status by the public or his/her peers.
- 4. Has prolonged or intense experience through practice and education in a particular field with recognized qualifications and credentials.
- 5. Identity is focused on a very specific area of technical knowledge, having developed depth over breadth.
- 6. Costly and extremely difficult for the organisation to replace.



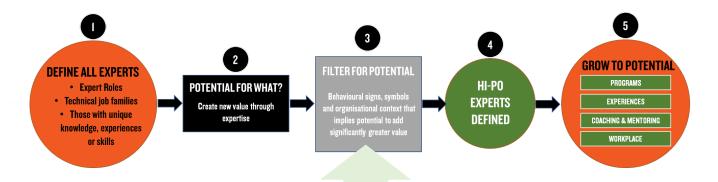


## POTENTIAL FOR WHAT? WHAT IF ... OUR EXPERTS ...

- Were more involved in innovation?
- Were capable of operating across a greater scope of work?
- Were able to be enterprise savvy and technically brilliant?
- Worked far more collaboratively across technical domains together?
- Could make more visible the value they have already created?
- Our experts were able to articulate the value they could create more effectively?
- Could and would mentor more junior expects?
- Could operate as brand ambassadors for our organization?
- Our experts really started to fulfill their potential .....

**INCREASING VALUE!!!!!** 





#### THE EXPERTUNITY POTENTIAL MODEL **PERSONAL MARKERS ORGANISATIONAL MARKERS** · Mission critical role Passionate desire to advance their technical · Possible single point of failure domain's impact on the organisation/world Flight risk impact is very high, replacement very (obsessive passion about the potential of their difficult domain) • Domain becoming more important (e.g., data science) • Belief they can personally add more value (if only Role has the potential to add breakthrough the idiots would get out of their way) competitive advantage · Strong desire to learn and be the best technical expert they can be Overly attracted to and distracted by really **ERRONEOUS MARKERS** complex and difficult problems/challenges · Commitment to the organisation (connection to · Current lack of emotional intelligence purpose, staying power) · Abrasive with stakeholders · Currently operating in technical bubble · Apparently lacking ambition © Expertunity Pty Ltd 2021

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11

### THE EXPERTUNITY POTENTIAL MODEL

#### **PERSONAL MARKERS**

- Passionate desire to advance their technical domain's impact on the organisation/world (obsessive passion about the potential of their domain)
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- Strong desire to learn and be the best technical expert they can be
- Overly attracted to and distracted by really complex and difficult problems/challenges
- Commitment to the organisation (connection to purpose, staying power)

### **ORGANISATIONAL MARKERS**

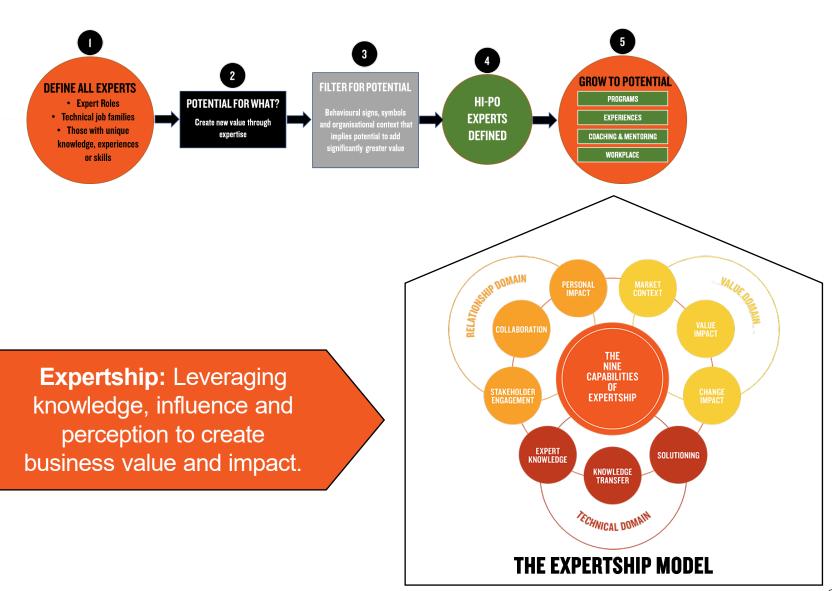
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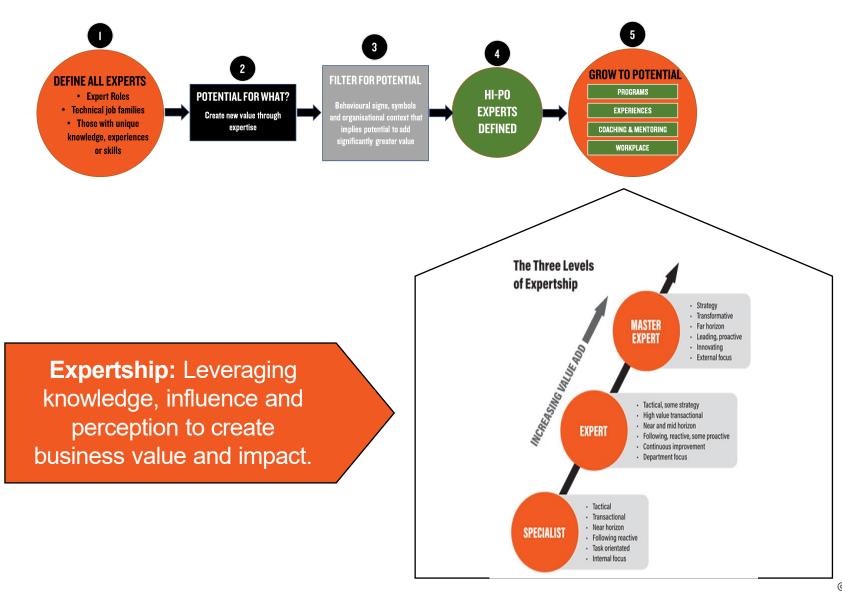
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Visibility
Qualifications
Inter-personal skills
Commercial acumen

Coaching Mentoring Develop leaders of experts



Remuneration
Diversity and Inclusion
Culture
Technical career stream

Mobility
Collaboration
Participation in strategy
Networking
Increasing difficulty and impact
Pursue research interests



## **DEVELOPING EXPERTS INTO MASTERS**

#### **ABILITY**

- Job specific knowledge is the most important predictor of success in a future role
- Intellect
- Can connect their technical solutions to improvements for the external customer, strategy and/or commercials
- Can explain highly complex ideas in a simple and easy to understand way
- Outcome and results orientation
- Strong interpersonal skills

#### **ENGAGEMENT**

- Driven by a sense of mission
- Determination to succeed in adding new value
- Exhibits and articulates strong convictions
- Commitment to the organisation, it's purpose and vision
- Intrinsically motivated by their job and profession.

#### **ASPIRATION**

- Wants to make a positive difference in the organisation and community
- Believes their domain of expertise can be a force for change
- Want to progress their field of expertise, not just progress in it
- Wants to develop or mentor less experienced experts
- Wants to take on problems and opportunities that are increasingly more complex, larger in scope and impact.

#### X-FACTOR FOR EXPERTS

- Can influence change
- Strong desire to keep learning. And learn quickly. And willing to unlearn.
- Critical thinking ability
- Dealing with complexity and ambiguity
- Can facilitate collaboration across experts from different fields of expertise
- Demonstrates systems thinking
- Seeks greater self-awareness



## **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

Actions	Benefit
Define what we mean by experts	Improved clarity of the expert population, talent identification and focused career and development planning.
Define potential for what	Clarity and cross-organization promotion of the value experts do and could create, making expert value visible
Develop criteria to identify HiPo experts to invest in	A standardized procedure for recognizing talent supports organizations to retain and grow talent in line with evolving needs.
Identify HiPos	Provides visible expectations and enables leaders to recruit and develop well-rounded experts who balance their technical brilliance with a commercial mindset and stakeholder engagement skills.
Grow to potential	A differentiated development program that allows the organization and leaders able to engage and develop experts in line with career aspirations so they can better contribute to competitive advantage and efficiency.



# **EXPERTUNITY**

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# QUESTIONS?





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