

The information in this handout is intended for the use of participants from the **Communities of Wellbeing** introductory workshop into polyvagal theory presented on 6 October 2021. communitiesofwellbeing.org.au

Acknowledgement

The material presented was informed by research and teachings from Dr Stephen Porges, the founder of polyvagal theory, and Deb Dana, who has been instrumental in translating the science into practical applications for clinical settings and the broader community.

Find out more

www.stephenporges.com www.rhythmofregulation.com

When sharing these activities with others please:

- Invite curiosity and never pressure a person to participate
- Always end with activities in **ventral** (the green zone)
- Make any modifications that you need to, to help you or others feel safe and comfortable.

bringing awareness to neuroception

How do you know when you are in a ventral vagal state (the green zone)? What are your bodily sensations? What do you feel, think or do?



safety social engaged connected

How do you know when you are in a sympathetic state (the red zone)? What are your bodily sensations? What do you feel, think or do?



DANGERmobilised
action taking
fight and flight

How do you know when you are in a dorsal vagal state (the blue zone)? What are your bodily sensations? What do you feel, think or do?



LIFE-THREAT immobilised disconnected shutdown

Glimmers

Triggers

Triggers



Sympathetic mobilised fight and flight

Dorsal immobilised disconnected

State creates story

What do you think?

Complete these sentences:

The world is...

What do you do?

Ventral safe connected

Ventral safe
Complete these sentences:

The world is...

What do you think?

Complete these sentences:

The world is...

Sympathetic

What do you **feel**?

Sympathetic mobilised fight and flight

What do you **do**?

Others are...

What do you **feel**?

What do you **feel**?

What do you **do**?

Complete these sentences:

The world is...

Others are...

I am...