

Appendix A

Value-focused Thinking (VFT) key terms

Adapted from Keeney RL. *Value-focused thinking. A Path to Creative Decisionmaking*. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: Harvard University Press, 1992.

Value-focused Thinking

A decision-making approach which puts the identification of values before the formulation of decision alternatives.

Values

Things decisionmakers care about and which they use to evaluate consequences of actions, alternatives and decisions.

Objectives

Statements that a decisionmaker wants to achieve. Objectives make values explicit in a decision context and have three features: a decision context, an object and a direction of preference.

Fundamental objectives

Essential reasons for interest in the decision. They are the ends that a decisionmaker wants to achieve and their sum states all that is of concern in the decision context.

Overall fundamental objective

The reason for interest in the decision situation. For example “getting well” in a clinical decision-making context.

Means objectives

Means to achieve fundamental objectives.

“Why Is That Important?” Test

Differentiates between fundamental and means objectives. Decisionmakers have to ask “Why is this objective important for the decision context?”. One

answer could be that the objective is an essential reason for interest in the situation (i.e. a fundamental objective). Another possible answer could be that the objective has implications for another objective (i.e. a means objective).

Appendix B

Questionnaire contents

1. Optimising physical wellbeing

What do you wish in this regard? What is important to you? What are you concerned about?

2. Optimising mental wellbeing: Anxieties, moods, feelings, worries ...

What do you wish in this regard? What is important to you? What are you concerned about?

3. Optimising personal life

What do you wish in this regard? What is important to you? What are you concerned about?

4. Optimising family life

What do you wish in this regard? What is important to you? What are you concerned about?

5. Optimising financial life

What do you wish in this regard? What is important to you? What are you concerned about?

6. What else is important to you that you have not mentioned above?