Introduction to Qualitative Evidence Synthesis (QES): What, why, how?

Facilitator
Sara Cooper
Cochrane South Africa, South African Medical Research Council
Bey-Marrie Schmidt
School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape

Objectives
The objective of this workshop is to provide a brief introduction to the principles of conducting and interpreting qualitative evidence syntheses (QES). At the end of the workshop participants should have a basic understanding of:

- What is a qualitative evidence synthesis (QES)?
- Why undertake a QES?
- How to formulate a good QES question?
- What are the main steps in conducting a QES?
- What is GRADE-CERQual?

Brief description of content
Qualitative evidence synthesis (QES), or systematic reviews of primary qualitative research, are becoming more common. Findings from QES are increasingly used in decision making processes across a wide range of public health and other areas, including to inform the development of clinical, health system and social welfare recommendations. This workshop will provide a brief overview of what QES is, how its findings can be applied, and the key methodological steps in conducting a QES. We will use presentations and exercises to illustrate learnings, with time for questions and discussion. No previous experience in qualitative evidence synthesis or conducting a systematic review is necessary for the workshop.