

Realist Evaluation,
Grants Program
Funding Rounds
and
Organisational Change

Today's talk

- Situate the evaluation
- Quick look at RE
- Organisational change aspect
- Utilisation

Background

HPB

ACTHPGP

4 rounds

HPSFR

Background

- Feb 2012
- Simply Strategic and Community Matters
- 2010-2011 Health Promotion Sponsorship Funding Round

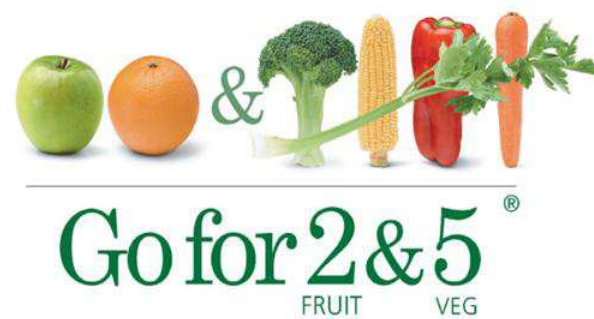
Background

- \$360,000
- 25 organisations
- Sporting
- Recreational
- Cultural
- Arts

Health Promotion Sponsorship Funding Round

- Delivering a priority **health message** (promotional and educational)
- Moving towards becoming a health promoting organisation by creating **healthy environments** (structural)
- Increasing active participation in the organisation and the program (**access and equity**)

SmokefreeACT



Why RE for this evaluation?

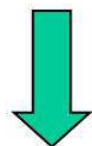
- Confusing previous findings
- Desire to learn
- Evaluation Framework

To be able to articulate:

In <these> kinds of organisations, <these> aspects of the funding round work well to generate <these> outcomes, which leads to <these> outcomes.

RE in brief

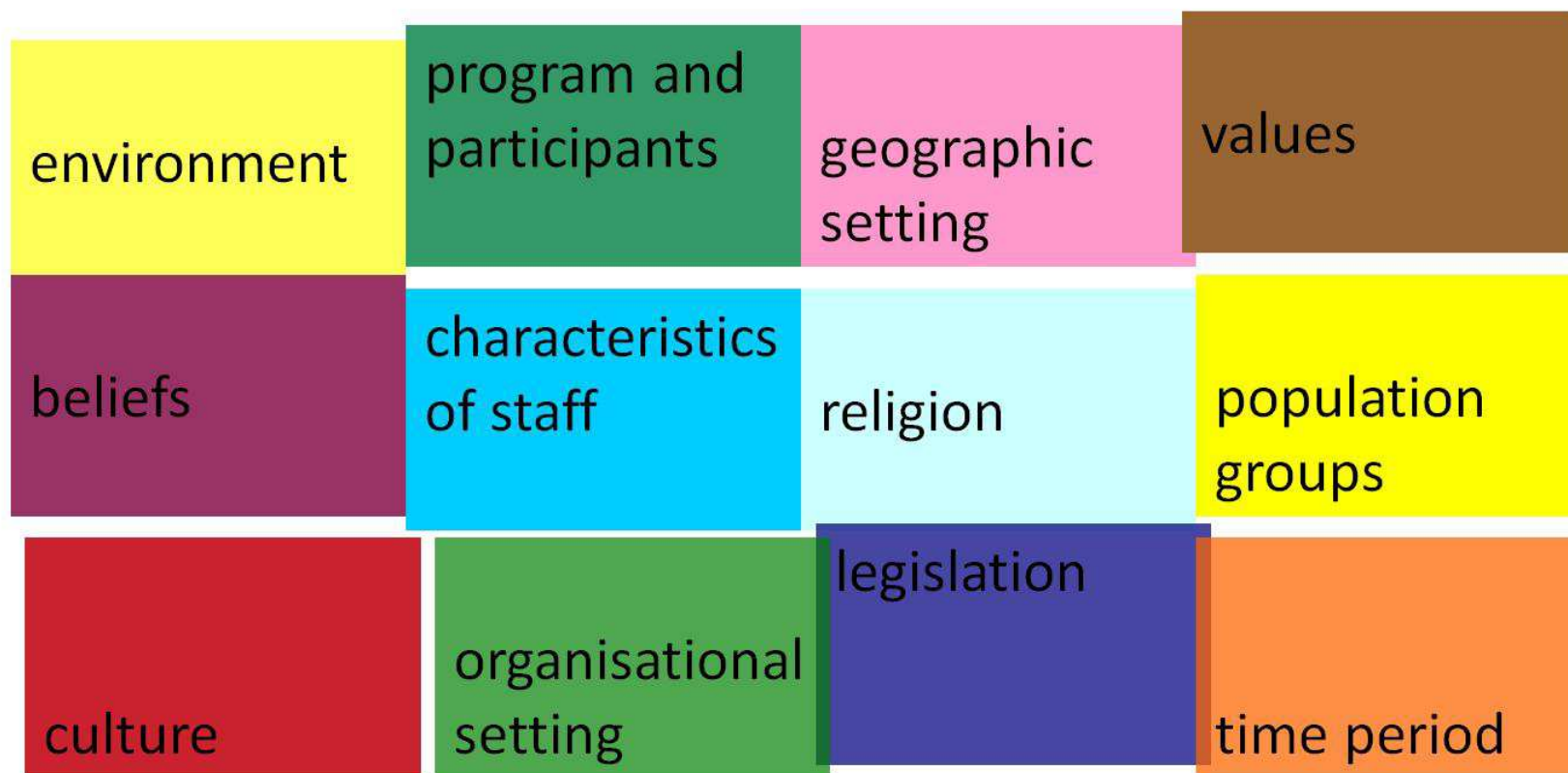
- What triggers change?
- Resources + reasoning = Mechanism



Outcome

RE in brief

Context



RE in brief

Context (for whom) (what circumstances)

Mechanism (how)

Outcome

CMOCs

What was being investigated?

- Six questions
- Ten theory of change propositions
- Relevant question:
 - In what circumstances, in what respects and how does the round contribute to the creation of health promoting organisations? In what circumstances are changes sustained?
- Value of RE to HPB

What was different?

- Focus on propositions
- Deliberate intent to refine program theory during the evaluation process
- Focus on mechanisms

What did we learn?

- Explicit program theories
- Identified contexts

What else did we find?

- Contextual elements
 - size
 - management and staffing

Data quality?

- Data sources didn't match method
- Post-hoc evaluation; ongoing program

Utilisation

- Did Realist Evaluation provide useful information for the funding round?
- Was that information of a different type to other assessments of the round?
- Will the HPB use Realist Evaluation again to evaluate funding rounds?

Meg Richens
Simply Strategic

meg.richens@simplystrategic.com.au

Stephanie Leishman
ACT Government Health Directorate

stephanie.leishman@act.gov.au