



“CATCHING THE MEL BUG” USING AN EVALUATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO UNPACK EVALUATION CAPACITY

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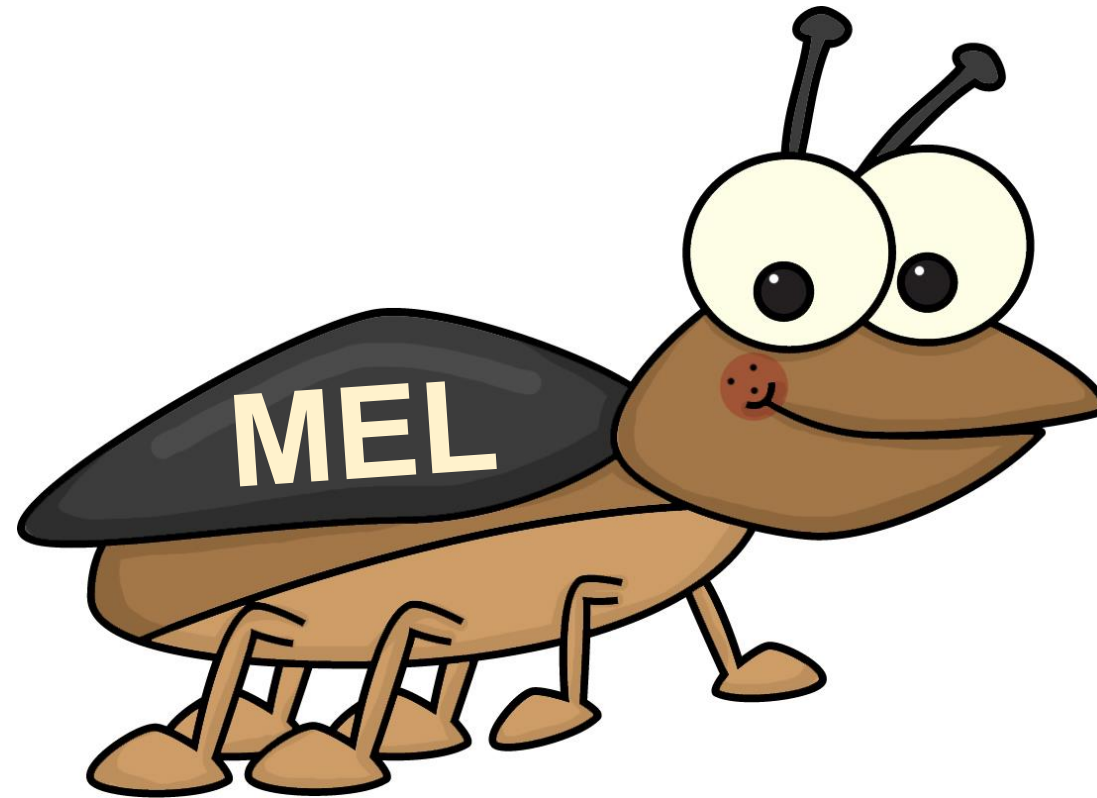
Australian Evaluation Society Conference | 17 Sept 2019





MEL





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Aboriginal
Family Violence
Legal Service

Djirra
Leadership &
MEL Manager

Lirata Ltd

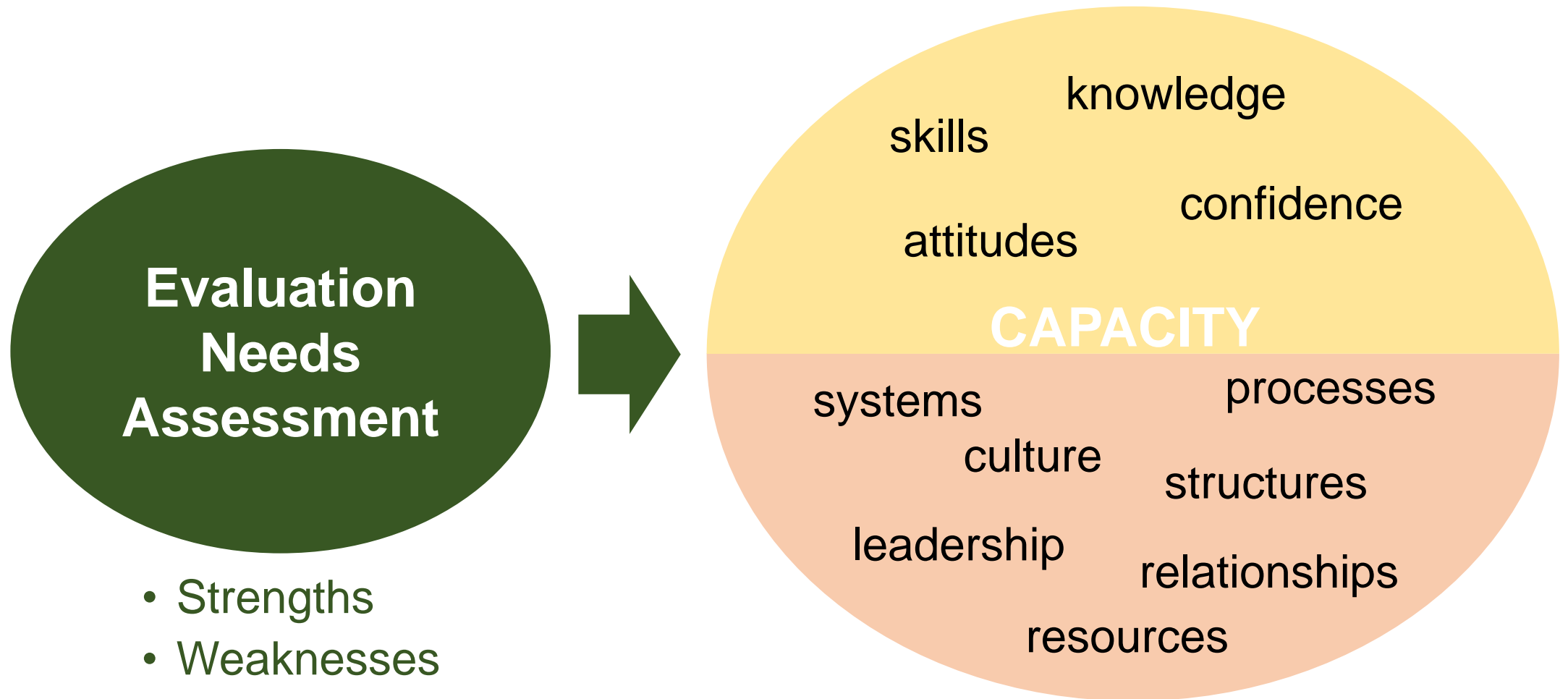
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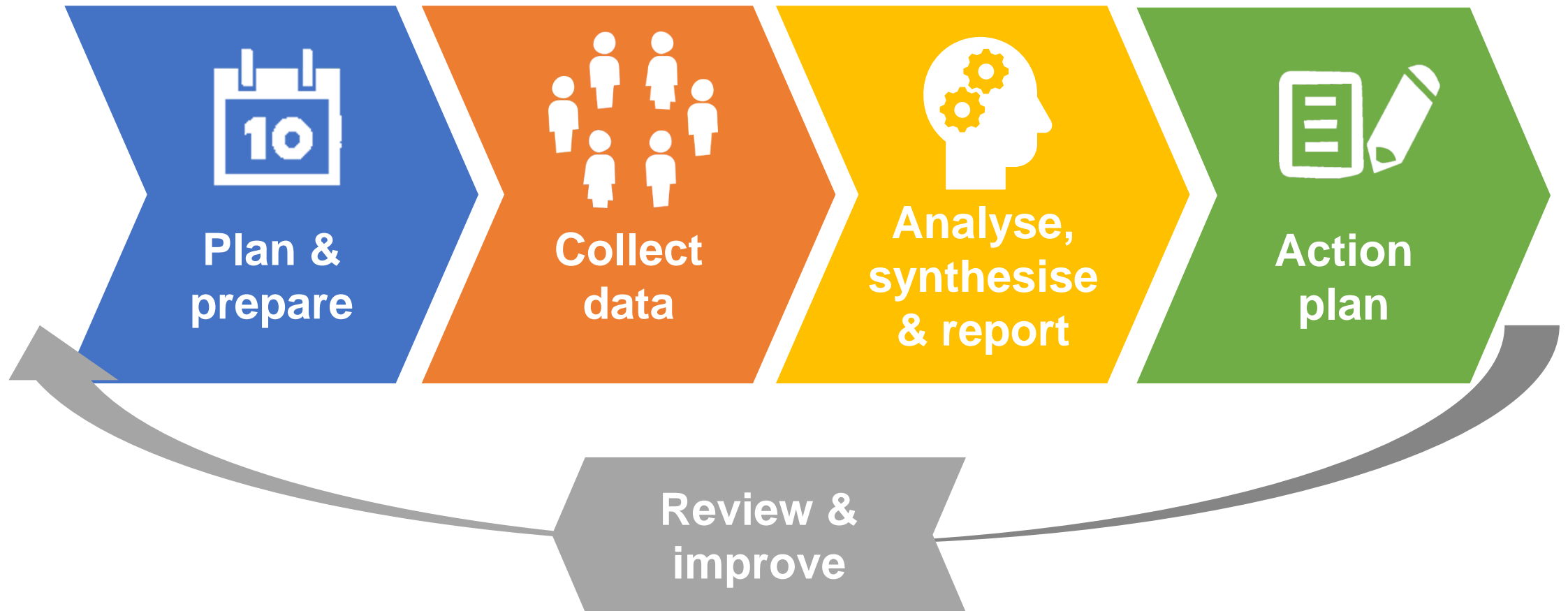
EVALUATION CAPACITY BUILDING

*“an intentional process
through which we strengthen our ability
to design, implement and use effective MEL processes
to help achieve our goals”*

EVALUATION CAPACITY BUILDING



PROCESS



LENSES AND DOMAINS

Individual MEL capacity

1. MEL knowledge, skills & experience
2. MEL attitudes & confidence

Team & organisational MEL capacity

3. MEL focus
4. MEL systems
5. MEL leadership, roles & relationships
6. MEL resources
7. MEL culture, support & development

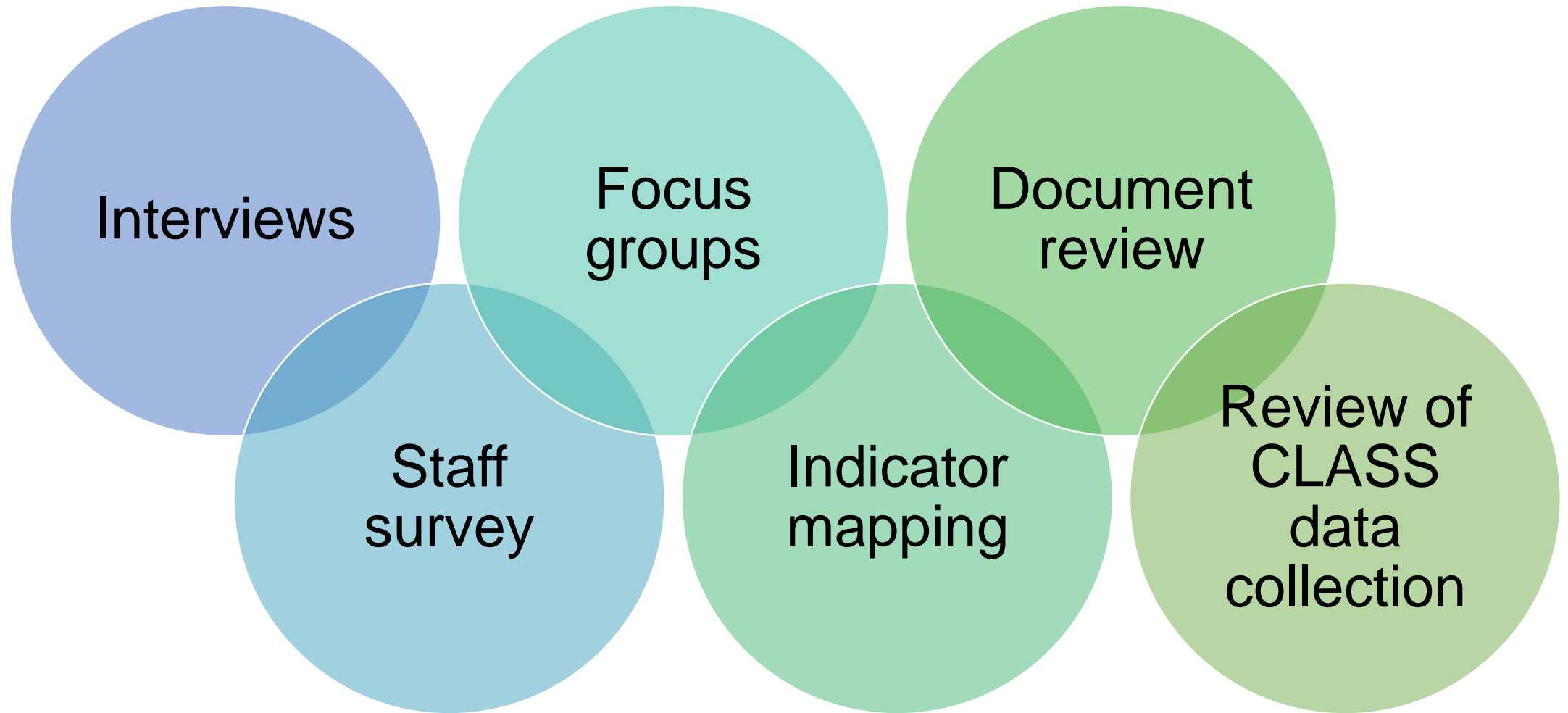
MEL life cycle

8. MEL design
9. Data collection
10. Analysis & reporting
11. Use & integration

RATINGS



COLLECT DATA



PARTICIPATION & OWNERSHIP

- Internally guided
 - Externally facilitated
 - Managers and workers
 - Different teams
-
- Listen for 'quiet voices'
 - Cultural safety
 - Awareness of power



ANALYSE, SYNTHESISE

I would like to know what contribution I can have to M&E and what is expected of me

Don't need to waste time and resources on MEL

Unless we can make this efficient for staff, it will fail

Have a meeting 'yarn circle' once a week to discuss success stories and sharing mistakes ... as a way we can support each other

DATA COLLECTION

- Staff training
- Clarify data requirements ③
- Configure CLASS + SHIP ⑤
- Update forms ⑥
- Update instructions + procedures + guidance for staff (tailored) ? flowchart ⑦
- Prioritise data tools for development TBC
- Risk analysis (+ connect to spine risk register) ①
- Business case for AEVLIS data position ①
- Build closer relationship with ④ FCIC / CLASS trainers - plan for next 12 mths
- Piloting with staff

TARGET: Paperless / low paper data collection

- in some contexts
- CLASS triage function

REPORTING

- by Mar 19
- ② Jork thru external mapping - report by report
- Set up reporting tools (eg. custom reports, excel etc.)
- ② Further conversations with funders / negotiations
- ② Sort out allocation of positions to funding streams
- Compare with other organisations

Map internal reporting requirements + aggregation incl. senior mgmt + board - Cross reference Strat Plan

MEL DESIGN

- Theory of Change
- Outcomes Framework
- MEL Framework

RISK

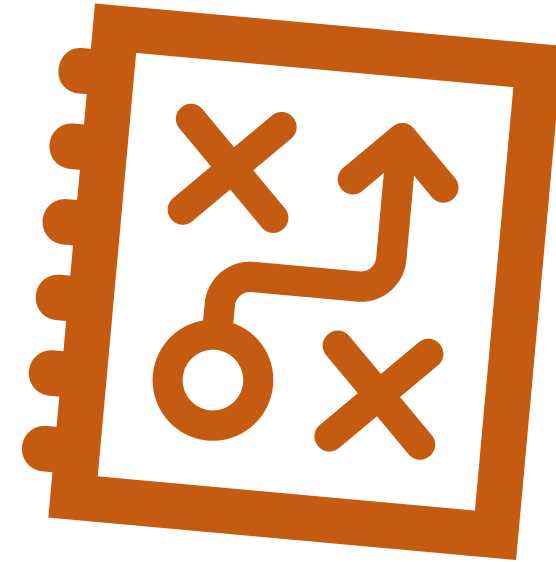
SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, CULTURE

- Embed reflective prax
- Comms plan/strategy
 - motivation - intrinsic value
- Feed back outcomes of ENA to staff
 - 1 pager?
- include in inservices, meeting agendas etc. - bring back trends / data to team

ACTION PLAN!

OUTCOMES – PLANNING ECB

- More strategic approach to evaluation capacity building activities
- Identify strengths and gaps
- Prioritise where to start
- Generate early ideas about MEL focus



OUTCOMES – EVALUATING ECB

- More strategic approach to reviewing our evaluation capacity building journey
- A framework for understanding capacity
- A baseline
- A perspective from outside of the ECB process



OUTCOMES – PARTNERSHIPS

- More strategic approach to partnering with stakeholders
- Understand the diversity of what people bring to the MEL journey
- “Flipping the script”

MORE INFO

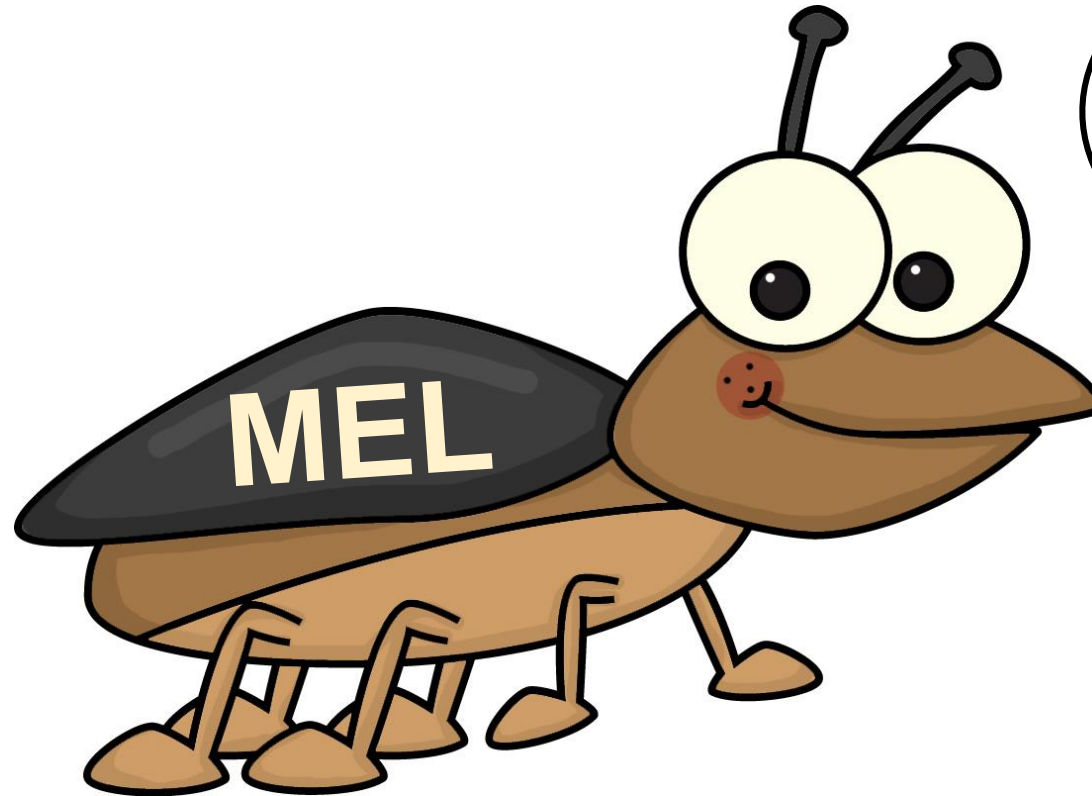
Available from Lirata (email Mark, or will be on website soon):

- Interview with Kathryn
- ENA framework
- ENA survey template to use and adapt

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QUESTIONS?



Catch me
if you can!