COMMUNITY FIRST DEVELOPMENT

WITH OUR PEOPLE, FOR OUR PEOPLE

MORE THAN A SELF-LICKING ICE CREAM

DONNA STEPHENS & SHARON BABYACK
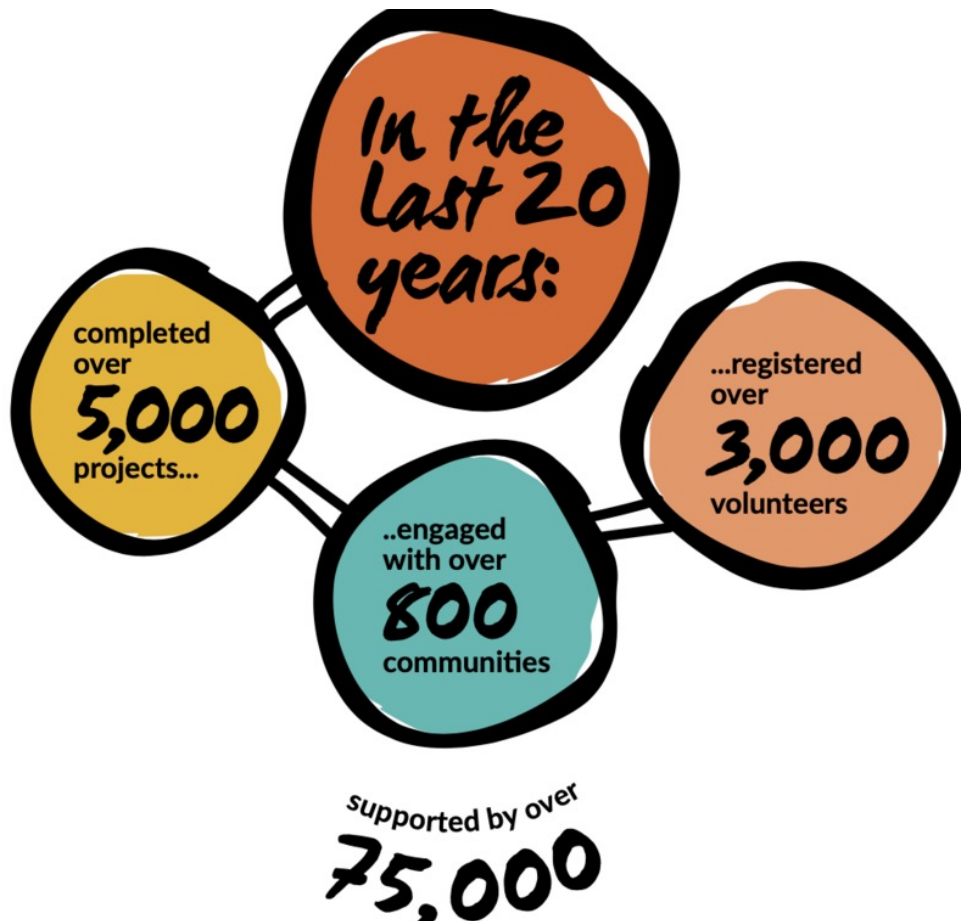## AES CONFERENCE, 1 SEPTEMBER 2022

WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE

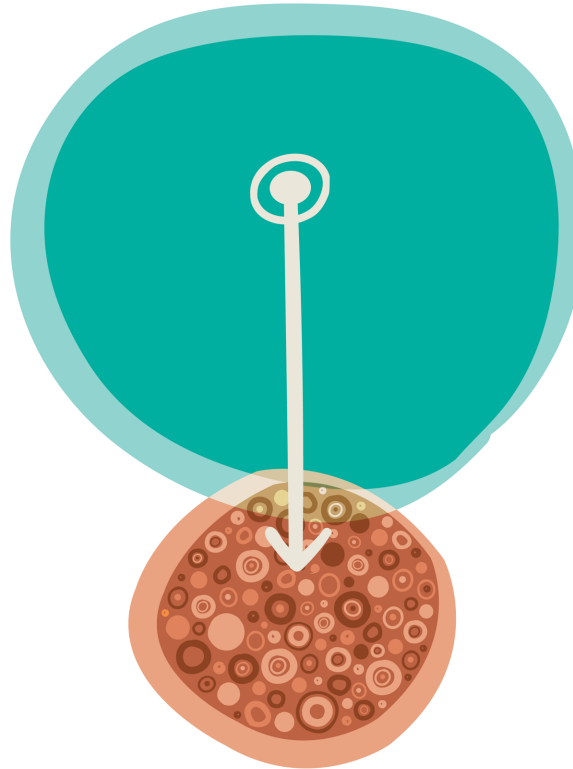COMMUNITY FIRST
DEVELOPMENT

WITH OUR PEOPLE, FOR OUR PEOPLE

In the last 20 years:

completed over 5,000 projects...

...engaged with over 800 communities

...registered over 3,000 volunteers

supported by over 75,000

A self-licking ice cream cone is a self-perpetuating system that has no purpose other than to sustain itself.

Colonisation and its ongoing impacts
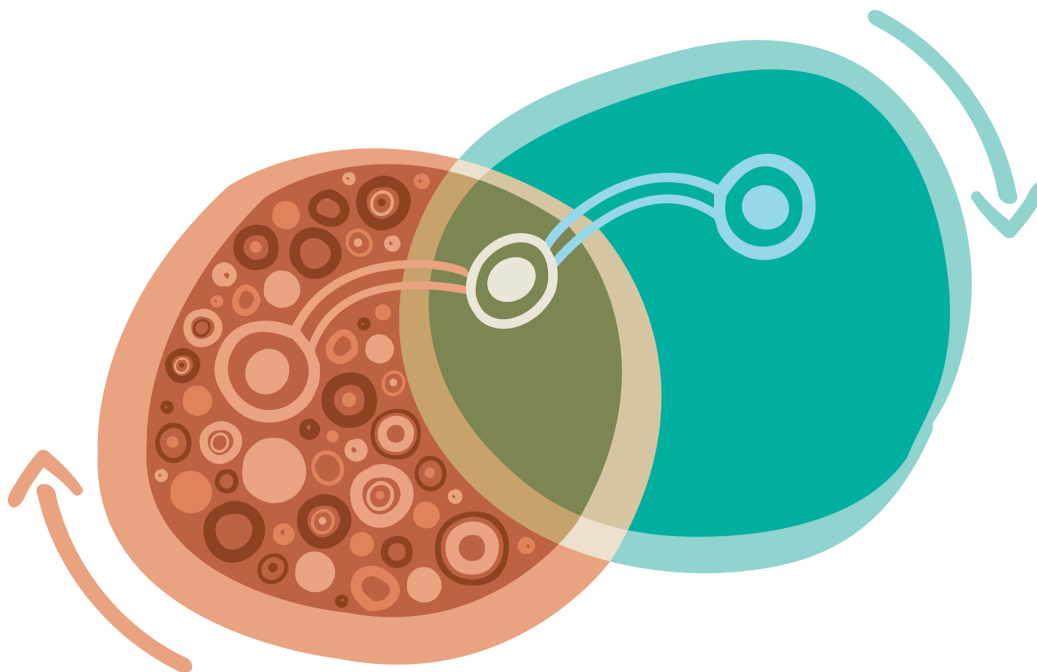
Western Governance

- Rules
- Compliance
- Expectations

First-Nations Governance

- Intrinsic
- Embedded
- Unique to each community

The path to Right Way Governance

Required Compromise

- Deep listening
- Kapati
- Mutual trust
- Respect
- Valuing community ownership

Required Compromise

- Delegated authorities
- Community ownership

METHODS FOR CHANGE

Yarning

◯ Supports control from the interviewed, rather than the interviewer

◯ Requires time

◯ Involves deep listening – not listening for a response, but for connections.

Deep Listening
- Dadirri (Daly River)
- Gulpa Ngawal (Yorta Yorta – Murray River Region)
- Molla Wariga (Gunai/Kurnai – Gippsland Region, Vic)

Yarning
- Inviting deep conversations
- Kapati (Top End)
- Stories and yarning, narrative, as organisational practices

If you are interested in using and/or adapting any of the materials in these slides as part of your work, please get in touch with the authors to request permission.

THINKING AND DOING THROUGH ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS APPROACH

'WE DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY'

○ Change can start at any or multiple parts of a system

○ Unpacking the tacit, hidden, unconscious to explore the interactions and interplay parts within a system to create space for change

TRANSFORMATIONAL SPACES

What happens when communities are supported to undertake reflective and reflexive processes to explore their understanding of themselves?

What happens when we make space and time for community governance practices to lead action?

How can this knowledge sustain the dissonance and disruption needed to make space for transformation that leads to and strengthens effective Aboriginal Community Control?

Image source:
https://your.unimelb.edu.au/community/s/event/a2a2e00000088SFAAY/indigenous-community-research-aug-22

COMMUNUNITY FIRST DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP

- ○ Recognises '*academic*' thinking present in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of being, doing and knowing

- ○ Provides an opportunity to explore knowledge within real world applications

- ○ Focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data methods and how they apply within transformative change actions

REFERENCES

Brearley, L. (2015). Deep listening and leadership: An Indigenous model of leadership and community development in Australia. C. Voyageur, L. Brearley & B. Calliou (2nd ed.), Restorying Indigenous leadership: Wise practices in community development, 91-127.

Campbell, M. A., Hunt, J., Scrimgeour, D. J., Davey, M., & Jones, V. (2017). Contribution of Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Services to improving Aboriginal health: An evidence review. Australian health review, 42(2), 218-226. https://doi.org/10.1071/AH16149

Campbell, R., Dworkin, E., & Cabral, G. (2009). An Ecological model of the impact of sexual assault on women's mental health. Trauma, violence & abuse, 10(3), 225-246. https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838009334456

Carm, E. (2012). The role of local leaders in cultural transformation and development. Compare, 42(5), 795-816. https://doi.org/10.1080/03057925.2012.701484

Chapman, J. A. (2002). A framework for transformational change in organisations. Leadership & organization development journal, 23(1), 16-25. https://doi.org/10.1108/01437730210414535

Community First Development. (2021). Good governance practice leads to good relationships: An exploration of the effectiveness of Community First Development's community development approach in the Australian context - Final Report: Findings and lessons learnt. Canberra, Australia: Community First Development.

Lee, E., & Eversole, R. (2019, 2019/11/02). Rethinking the regions: Indigenous peoples and regional development. Regional Studies, 53(11), 1509-1519. https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2019.1587159

Ober, R. (2017). Kapati time: Storytelling as a data collection method in Indigenous research. Mystery Train, 2007.

Priest, K., King, S., Nangala, I., Brown, W. N., & Nangala, M. (2008). Warrki Jarrinjaku 'working together everyone and listening': growing together as leaders for Aboriginal children in remote central Australia. European early childhood education research journal, 16(1), 117-130. https://doi.org/10.1080/13502930801897186

Rogers, A, Radcliffe, D, Babyack, S. (2018) Demonstrating the value of community development: An inclusive evaluation capacity building approach in a non-profit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organization. Evaluation Journal of Australasia, Vol 18, Issue 4.

Ungunmerr-Baumann, M.-R., Groom, R. A., Schuberg, E. L., Atkinson, J., Atkinson, C., Wallace, R., & Morris, G. (2022). Dadirri: an Indigenous place-based research methodology. AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples, 18(1), 94-103. https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801221085353

If you are interested in using and/or adapting any of the materials in these slides as part of your work, please get in touch with the authors to request permission.
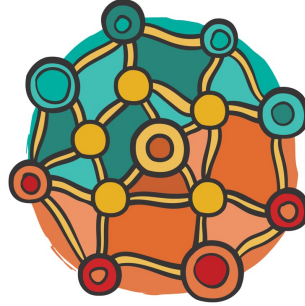
COMMUNITY FIRST DEVELOPMENT

WITH OUR PEOPLE, FOR OUR PEOPLE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

OUR UNDERSTANDING

ENGAGE & EMPOWER

CONNECT & BUILD

DESIGN & DELIVER

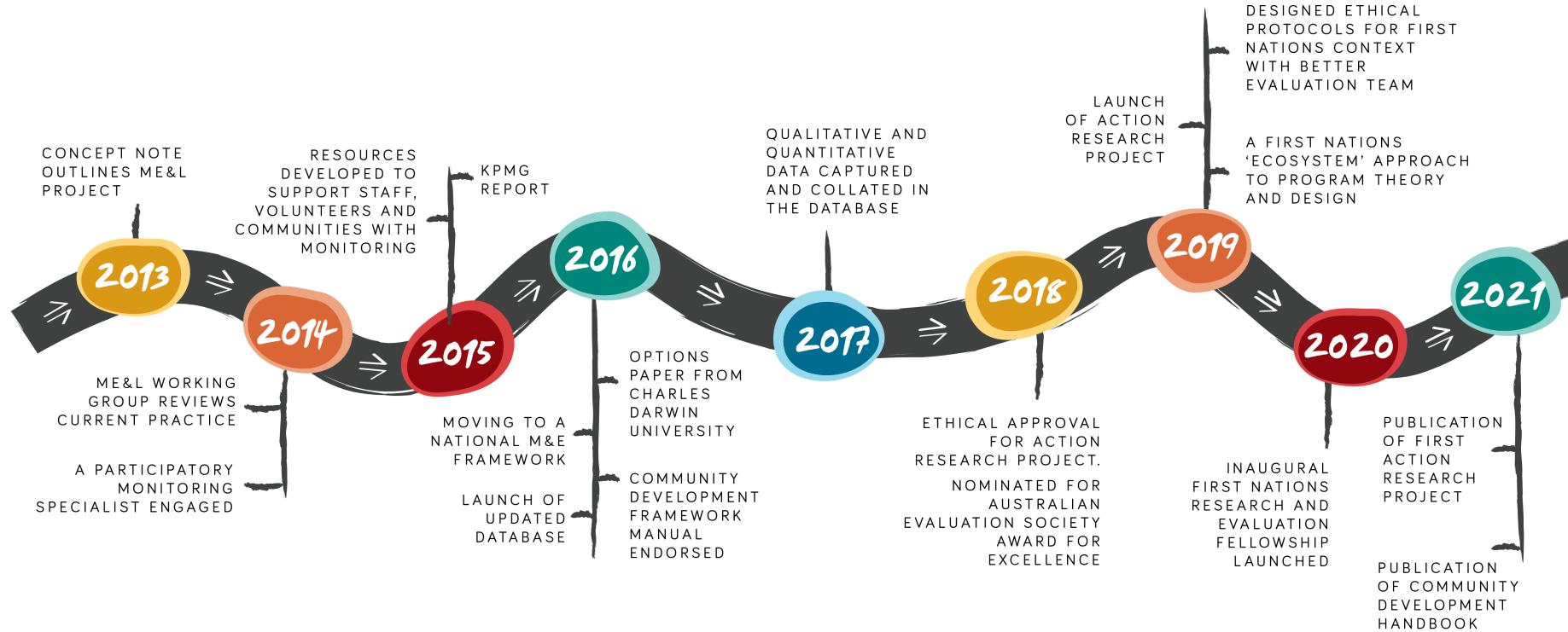REFLECT & CELEBRATE

If you are interested in using and/or adapting any of the materials in these slides as part of your work, please get in touch with the authors to request permission.

CONCEPT NOTE OUTLINES ME&L PROJECT

2013

ME&L WORKING GROUP REVIEWS CURRENT PRACTICE

A PARTICIPATORY MONITORING SPECIALIST ENGAGED

RESOURCES DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITIES WITH MONITORING

2014

KPMG REPORT

2015

MOVING TO A NATIONAL M&E FRAMEWORK

LAUNCH OF UPDATED DATABASE

2016

OPTIONS PAPER FROM CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK MANUAL ENDORSED

QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE DATA CAPTURED AND COLLATED IN THE DATABASE

2017

2018

ETHICAL APPROVAL FOR ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT.

NOMINATED FOR AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

LAUNCH OF ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT

DESIGNED ETHICAL PROTOCOLS FOR FIRST NATIONS CONTEXT WITH BETTER EVALUATION TEAM

A FIRST NATIONS 'ECOSYSTEM' APPROACH TO PROGRAM THEORY AND DESIGN

2019

INAUGURAL FIRST NATIONS RESEARCH AND EVALUATION FELLOWSHIP LAUNCHED

2020

PUBLICATION OF FIRST ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT

PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK

2021

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

100% **COMMUNITY** DRIVEN
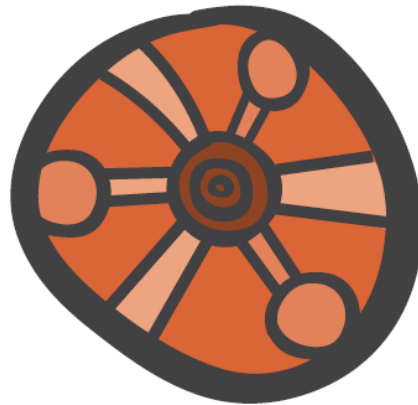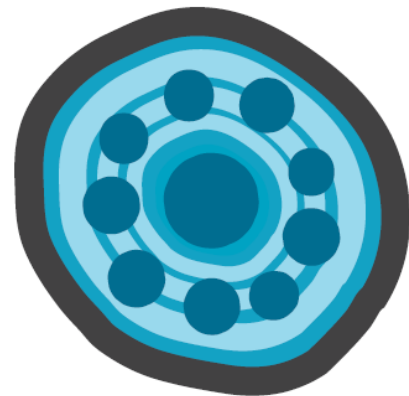
BY **INVITATION** ONLY

PROVEN IMPACT

If you are interested in using and/or adapting any of the materials in these slides as part of your work, please get in touch with the authors to request permission.