

# Evaluating contribution from the ground up

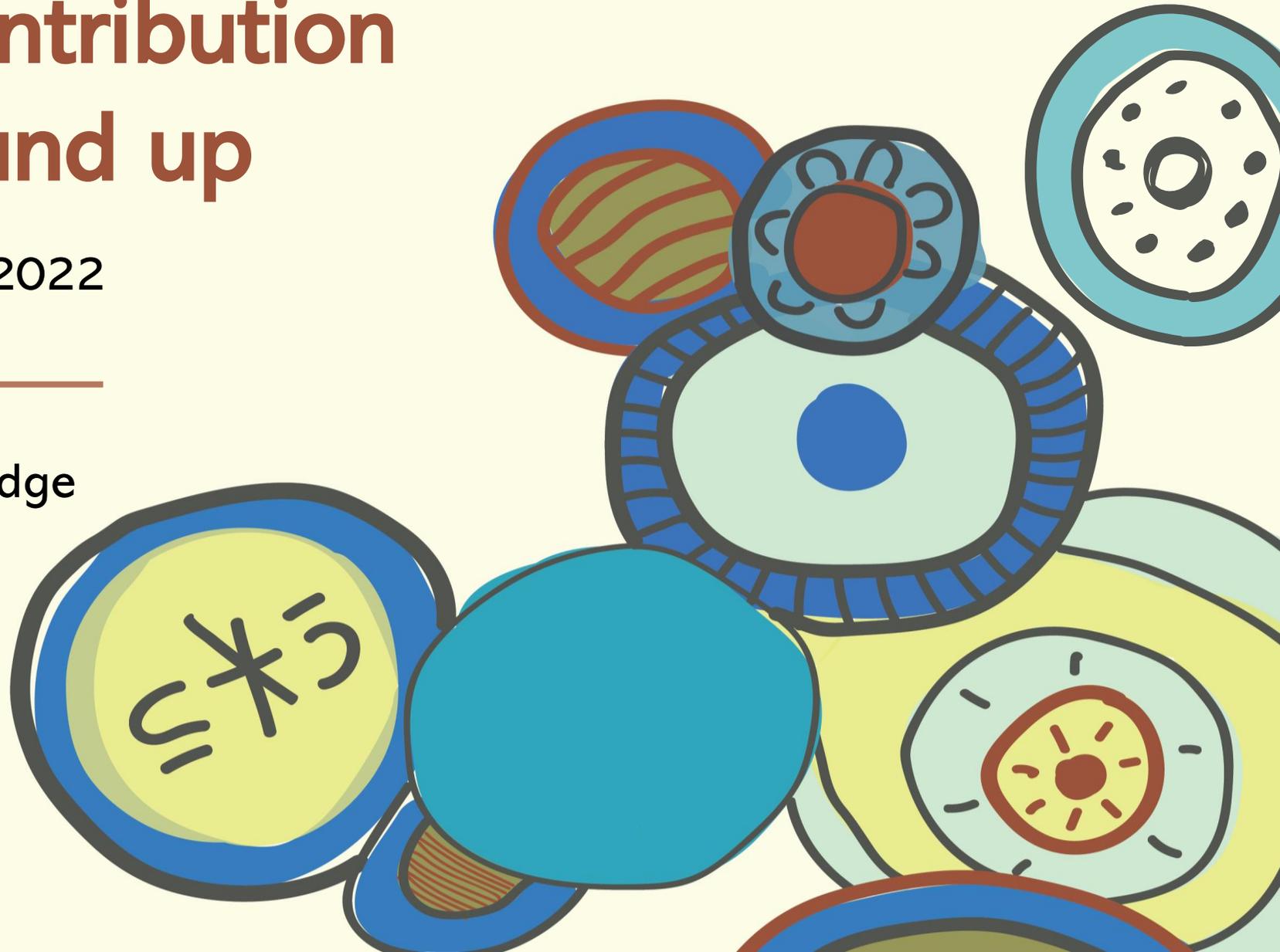
AES Conference Adelaide 2022

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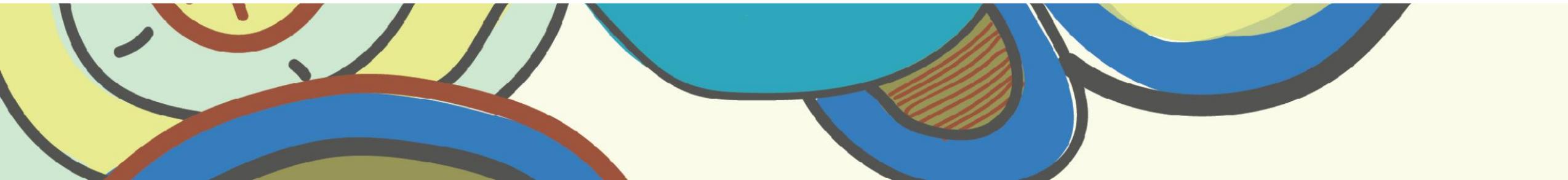
# What we're going to talk about

## Two analytic approaches:

- Traditional approach to contribution analysis
- A 'ground up' approach to contribution analysis

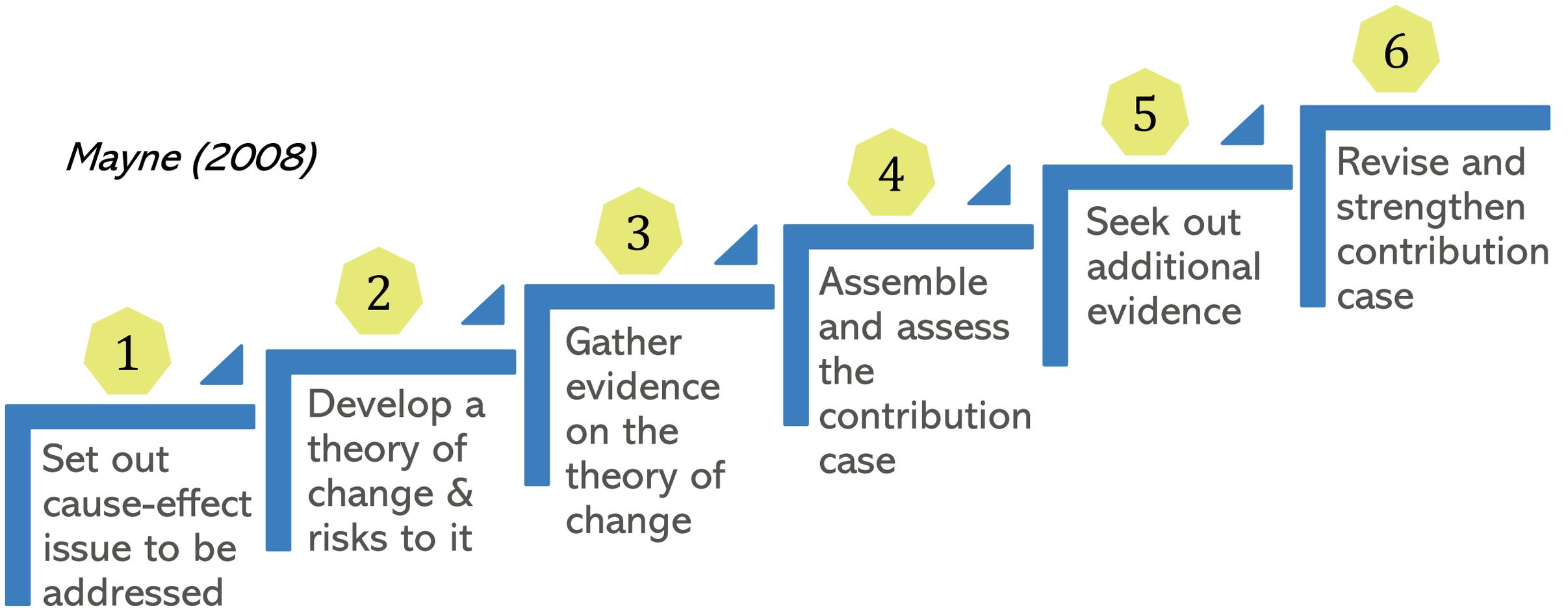
## Rationale for using a 'ground up' approach to contribution analysis

- An example from our practice
- Benefits & challenges
- Take home message

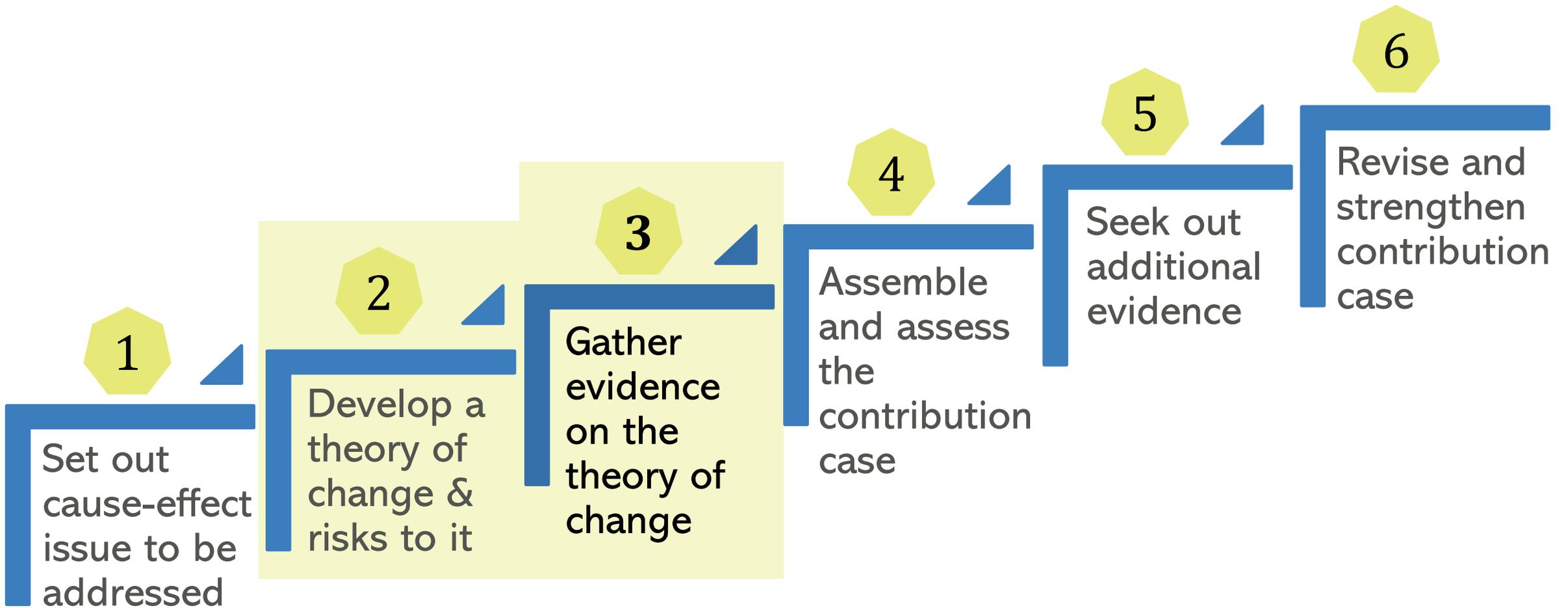


# Contribution analysis

*Mayne (2008)*



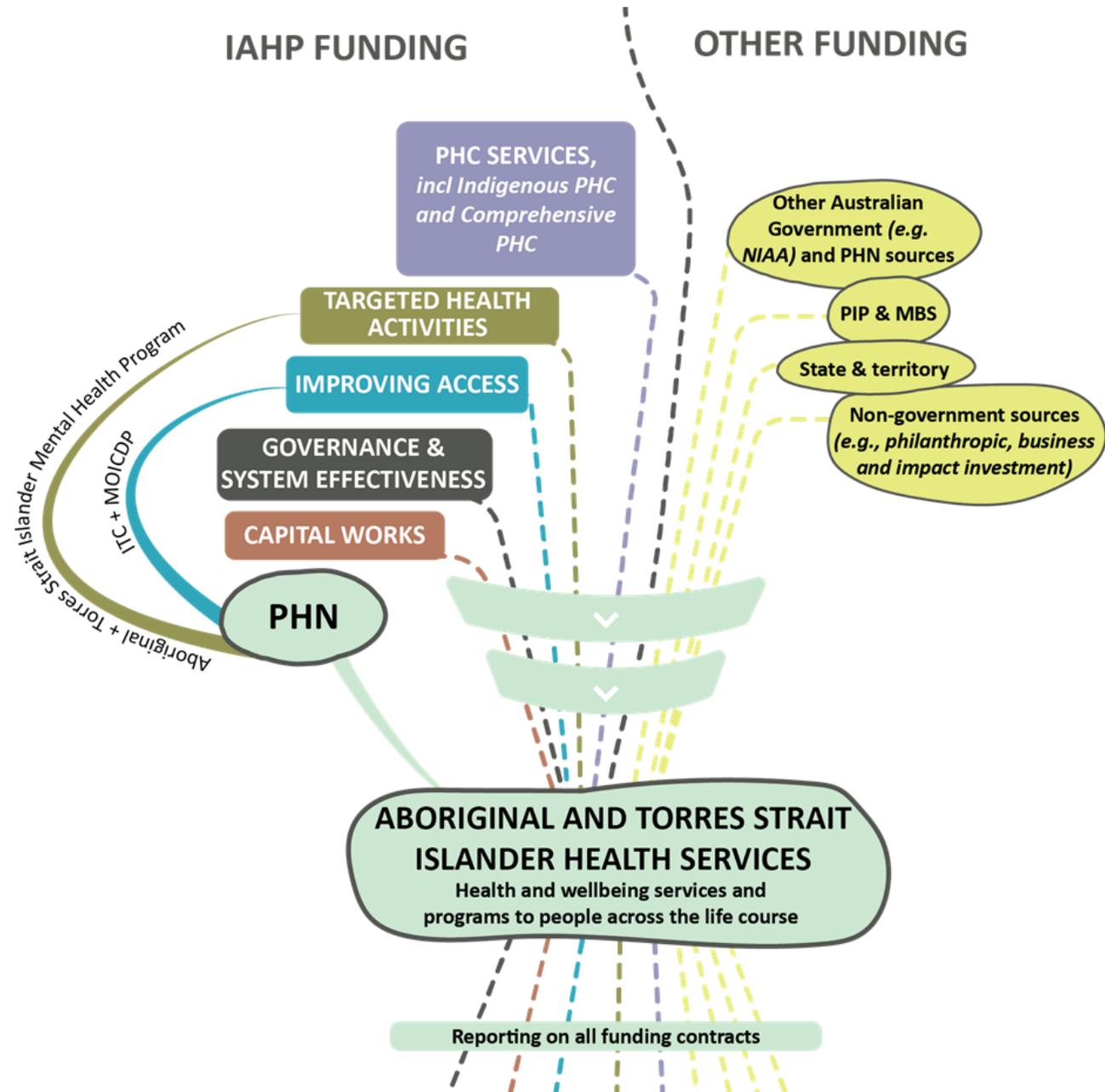
# Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP)

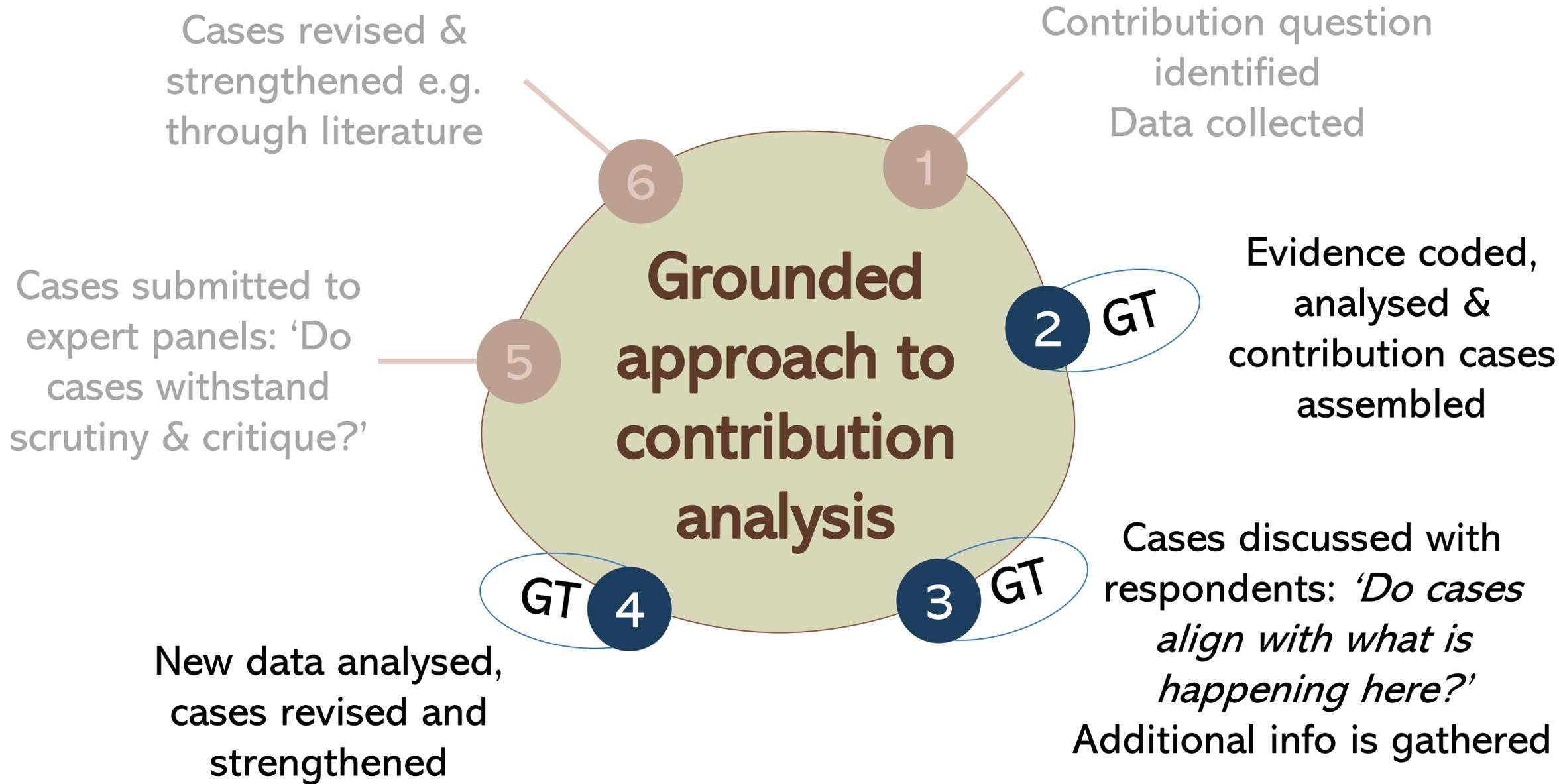


# Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP)

**3**

Gather evidence on the theory of change





# What is the rationale for using grounded theory?

“Evaluations conducted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations must be culturally safe; be useful and directly relevant to the production of knowledge for societal progress, human health and flourishing. And they must be designed to produce innovations that have an impact as defined by them.”

*(Bainbridge et al., 2015).*

# What is grounded theory about?

- Grounded theorists are systems thinkers
- Grounded theory:
  - builds on the premise that 'all is data'
  - developed with the intent of developing a theory with great 'explanatory power' which demonstrates fit and relevance to the research stakeholders' realities and aspirations.

# The value of grounded theory

Adopting a grounded theory approach:

- legitimises the experiences of Indigenous people as a valid source of knowledge;
- facilitates the development of theory directly interpreted from the words expressed by them;
- considers the influence of contextual social processes and structures;
- recognises the diversity of experience;
- pays attention to the relational aspects of the evaluation.

# Coding data

- Re-coding of cycle 1 data (qualitative interviews)
- Incorporating evidence from cycle 2 data
- Time frame (Nov 2021 – June 2022)
- Use of Nvivo and Miro to code, group and map findings
- Fortnightly meetings

# Grounded analytical process

Open coding and  
memo writing

Mapping findings  
and describing  
code clusters  
and concepts

Connecting across  
data sets to  
assemble cases

Underpin by constant comparing and contrasting across different sets of data

Example  
from  
practice

Grounded  
approach to  
contribution  
analysis

# Open coding & memo writing

We didn't have the  
money...

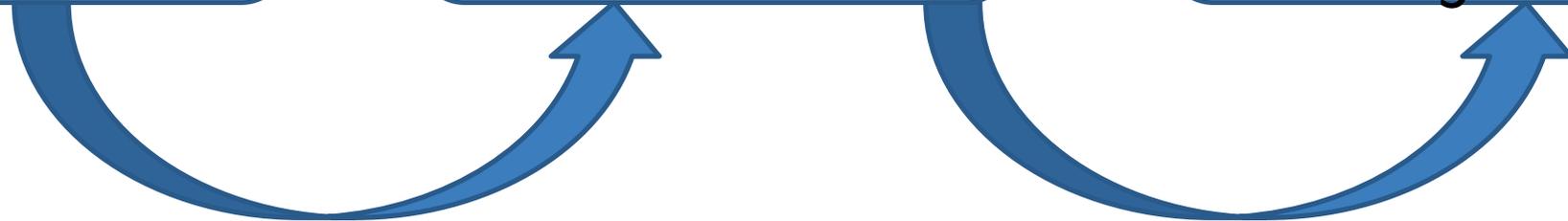
Benefits of IAHP

IAHP Funding to  
ACCHO's

Start with a  
phrase/concept/the  
me

First set of parent  
codes organised  
under the broader  
theme

Broader themes  
organised under  
high level  
categories



Example from practice

Grounded approach to contribution analysis

# Mapping findings and identifying concepts

The screenshot shows a Miro board titled "IAHP Yarnes ana...". The interface includes a top navigation bar with the Miro logo, a search bar, and various tool icons. On the left, there is a vertical toolbar with navigation and editing tools. The main workspace is a grid where findings are mapped and concepts are identified.

**Findings (Left Column):** A vertical column of five cloud-shaped boxes containing text. The text is partially obscured but appears to be a list of findings or observations.

**Concepts (Right Column):** A vertical column of yellow sticky notes containing key concepts identified from the findings. These include:

- Real-time funding to be more effective
- Stop funding going away - channel to ACCES
- Training local people locally
- More investment in infrastructure
- Give us more and see what we can do more
- Streamlined and integrated team care
- Turn things on its head - disrupt the system
- Have a custom solution and a seat at the table (even for ACCES)
- Be proactive - address the issues
- Focus on the whole circle of life
- Change led from the ground

**Other Elements:** The grid also contains several blue sticky notes, some of which are connected to the findings by lines, indicating the mapping process. The overall layout is organized and structured, facilitating the analysis and identification of key concepts from the findings.

Example from practice

Grounded approach to contribution analysis



# Connecting across different sets of data to assemble cases

## Structure

- Context
- Contribution
- Implications
- Rival explanation/other factors

## Ongoing

- Synthesising cases into shorter cases that can easily be taken back to sites
- Revising them according to new input and evidence

# Sense-checking, case review & adaption

**Group 1** – all site partners / participants

**Group 2** – Aboriginal health sector review

**Group 3** – methodological review

ACCHO, PHNs, community representatives, peak bodies

Health sector professionals

Academics with knowledge of methodology

Sense checking, gap filling and adding nuances

Scrutinise the contribution claims & cases

Review the robustness of our evidence, analysis and methodology

At all stages and with all three groups we will be exploring nuances and potential alternative explanations. We will also seek out secondary facts and information identified through the data analysis and relevant literature

# Why bring two analytic approaches together?

## Benefits

- Real-world experiences at the forefront and brought to the centre of the evaluation.
- Discovery of 'new things' and attention to complexity and alternative explanations
- Developing arguments that are context-specific, detailed, and tightly connected to evidence.

## Challenges

- Hard to find focus and define scope.
- Hard to not bring in theory and pre-existing assumptions from evaluation.
- Hard to fit with wider evaluation and other analytical streams.

## Evaluative claim about contribution

**Sense check:** Accountability to participants  
Any rival explanations? What is missing or puzzling?

**Grounded approach to code, analyse, draft contribution cases:**  
What's the contribution of the evaluand to observed changes?  
How does this compare with what is important?

**Evidence:** What's happening here? What's changed & why?

**Value:** What's important in this context?

Attention to context

Grounded  
approach to  
contribution  
analysis



# References

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# Thank you

We're keen to hear from you!

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