



Participatory Analysis Workshops

A novel method for identifying important factors across diverse projects

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Acknowledgement of Country



We also acknowledge the talent and artistry of Emma Walke, who designed the artwork for our acknowledgment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The design shows a story of connection to country and people, representing the breadth of work we do with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. The colours represent the land, and the lines in between represent the water that connects us all.

What is a Participatory Analysis Workshop?

Strengths-based qualitative method

Combines data collection with initial analysis

Does not require specific knowledge or skills from participants

Compares and contrasts experiences, identifies key themes

Core assumption: the people you're collecting data from are the people who are best-placed to understand what's important about the thing you're evaluating.

What we'll talk about today

1

The ask

2

Our approach

3

What would we do differently next time?

4

What context is this method most useful for?

5

Questions and Discussion

The COVID-19 Community Connection and Wellbeing Program

- Grant program delivered by NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Aimed to support recovery from COVID-19 through community connection and wellbeing
- Wide range of activities towards a common outcome
- Different grant sizes, \$1,000 to \$500,000
- Different organisation types
- 76 grantees



The Challenge



Focus

High-level evaluation of overall program design, implementation, effectiveness

Not evaluation of individual grants



Methodology

Request to use Most Significant Change or similar

Nature of initiative

Diverse grantees in Diverse locations with diverse evaluation literacy and capability



Budget & resourcing

Small budget evaluation

Need for minimal time commitment from grantees



Timeframe

Two years

Two reports

Projects in progress and reporting templates set

Evaluation approach

Most Significant Change (MSC)

- Strengths-focused
- Story-telling methods
- 'Changes' rather than 'outcomes'

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

- Compare and contrast different stories of change
- Find common themes, enablers, barriers

Program Logic

- Structure second-round analysis to understand achievement of intended outcomes

Participatory workshops

A Novel Method: Participatory Analysis Workshops

Intent

- Efficiently collect rich data
- Identify commonalities and common themes
- Test ideas with grantees



Needs

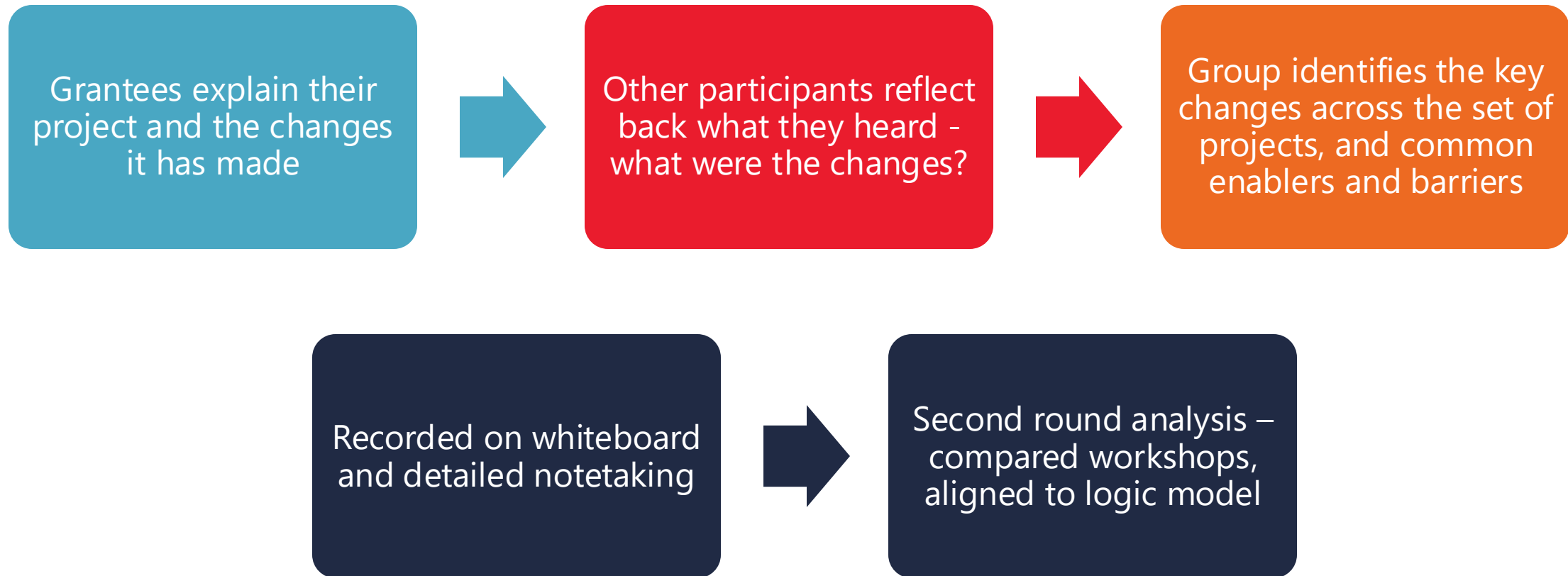
- Open, honest sharing from participants
- Trust
- Efficiency



Features

- Sample of grantees
- Reviewed grantee reports ahead of workshops to learn about projects
- Pre-workshop calls to set tone and start thinking
- 2 hour online workshops with whiteboards
- No grant managers in the room
- Invited active reflection from participants

Workshop structure



What we observed about this process



Positive peer regard



Participants felt validated & less isolated



Online vs. in person



Workshop constraints
(size and timing)



Participatory analysis

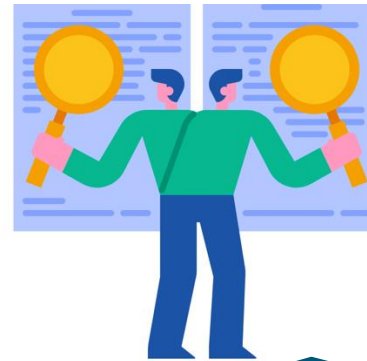
What were the challenges and limitations?



Grantees venting about wider system



Lack of quantification – not suitable for all use-cases

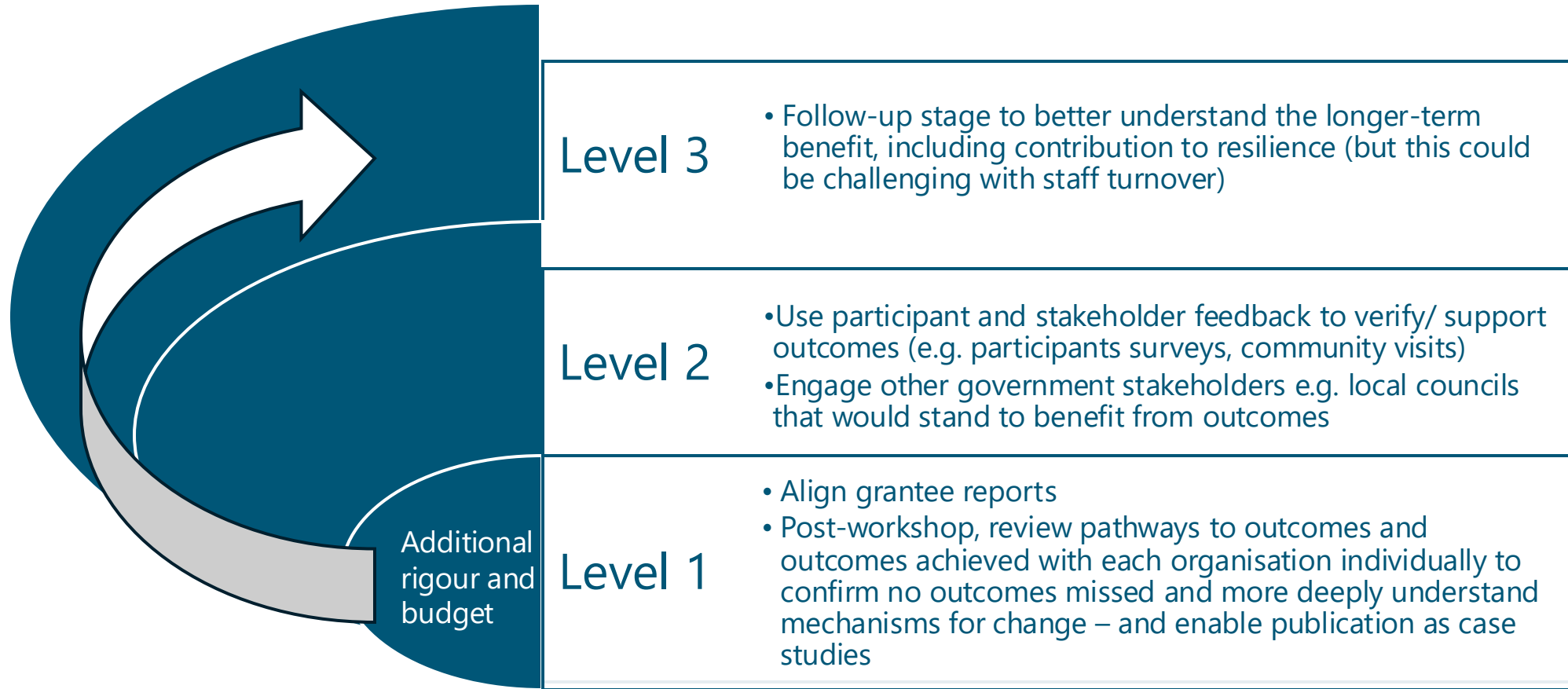


Inconsistent reports – different capacity between grantees



Lack of verification within our method

What we would change



Improvements to the workshops

- No repeat attendees between the two years
- Sample based on similar progress with implementation
- Stick with 2-hour workshops and smaller number of KEQs

What context is this method best for?

1

Diverse activities with similar intended outcomes

It helped that the organisations were aiming for similar outcomes but in different locations or with different target groups so they were not competing.

The method could be used to build rapport and a community of practice that enables sharing to benefit practice.

2

Lower-risk programs

Method generates a good, general sense of outcomes.

It suits lower budget programs requiring where moderate rigour and less precise evidence is suitable for the evaluation goals.

3

Understanding how change is created and the value of change

Useful for understanding different pathways to change through sharing and use of logic model mapping.

Yields rich data.

Suitable for identifying unintended outcomes and testing assumptions about how a program works.

4

Efficient data collection and analysis

Requires a group of people that is likely to have good insights into a program.

Suits smaller-scale evaluations that need rich, moderately rigorous data.

Questions?

- Is there anything different you think this could work for?
- What risks or opportunities do you see?
- What else would you like to know?



Connect with us



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