

Rapid evaluation in the Victorian Department of Health

Eleanor Williams

Victorian Department of Health

PhD Candidate – University of Queensland

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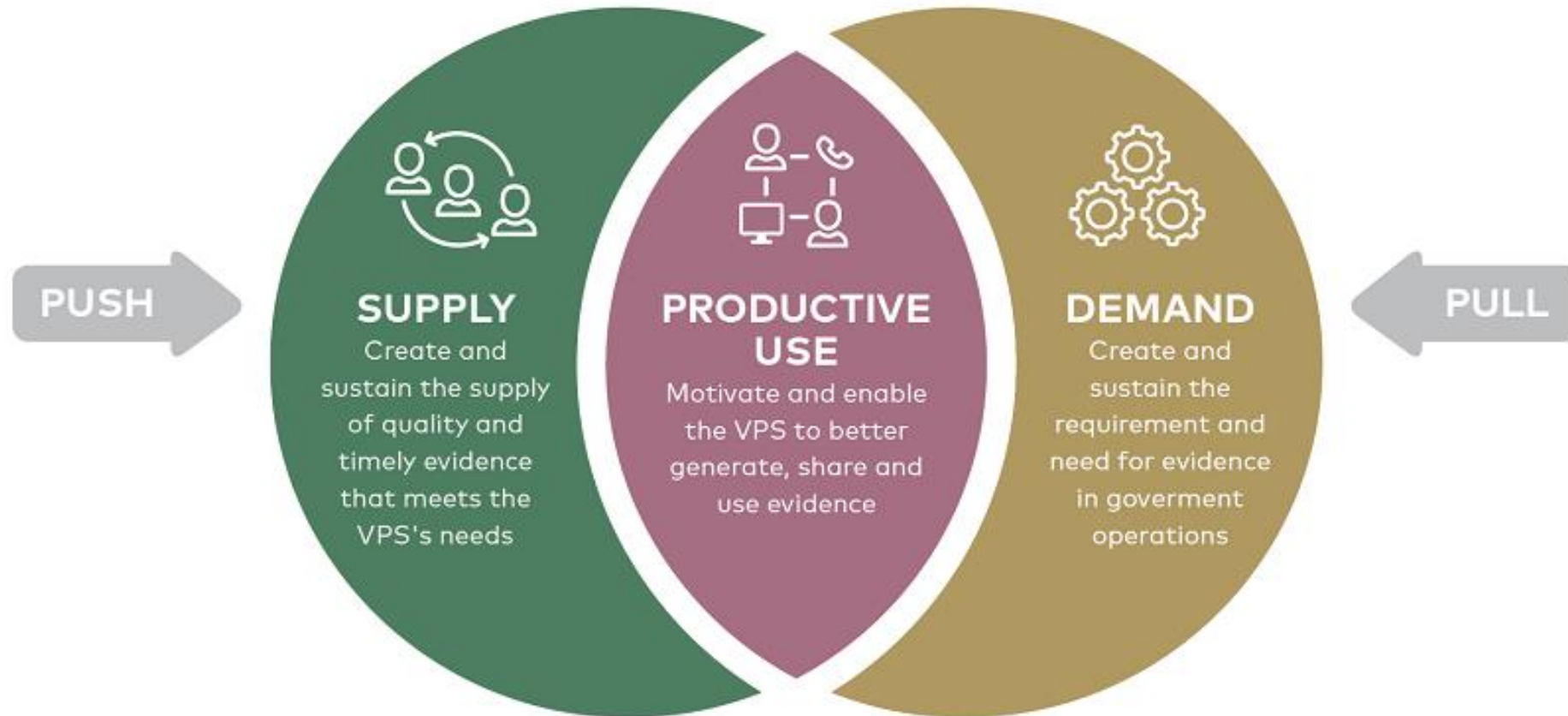
Focus for today's session

The why – drivers of rapid evaluation

The how – methods for rapid evaluation

The what – products and communication

The scope and format of evidence must meet stakeholder needs in order to be used productively, including in tight timeframes



Source: <https://www.vic.gov.au/evidence-reform-victoria>

There are three main reasons why decision makers might need rapid measurement and this has implications for your approach



**Near-term or frequent
decision making**



Short-term impacts

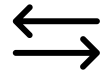


Resource constraints

The how: Rapid methods have a long history particularly in health and international development

Types of rapid method
Rapid Evaluation Method (REM)
Rapid Participatory Appraisals (RPA)
Rapid Appraisal/Rapid Rural Appraisal/Rapid Qualitative Research/ Rapid Assessment Process (RAP)
Rapid Ethnographic Assessment (REA)
Rapid Appraisal Methods (RAM)
Rapid Analysis
Rapid evaluation, assessment, and learning methods (REALM)
Rapid evaluation and assessment methods (REAM)
Real-Time Evaluation (RTE)
Rapid Cycle Evaluation
Rapid Assessment Procedures
Rapid Assessment Response and Evaluation (RARE)
Shoestring evaluations
Rapid qualitative methods
Rapid assessment

There are common features of rapid evaluation methods which are critical to success



Iterative/flexible design



Multiple methods and data sources (but often rely more heavily on qualitative data)



Expedited data collection and analysis processes and concurrent streams of work



Action oriented findings and recommendations



Tailored communications products



Multi-disciplinary and highly skilled teams



Participatory approach

The who: Rapid evaluation model in the Victorian Dept of Health delivered by the internal Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence

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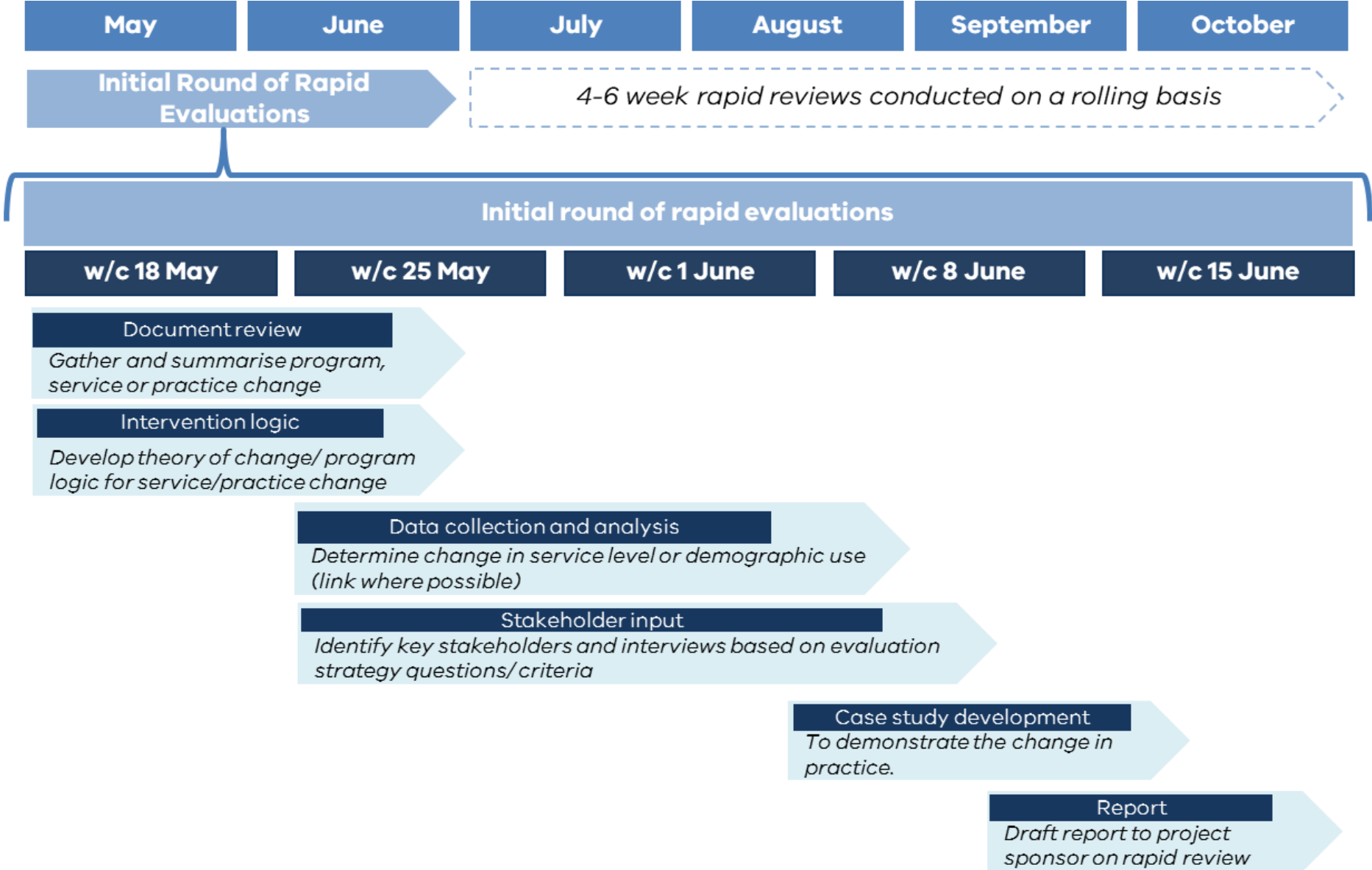
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📞 **1800 675 398**

The what: The rapid evaluation model aimed to complete data collection, analysis and reporting in a 6-8 week period...



Summary – ten top tips when undertaking rapid evaluations (ok it's actually eleven)

CERE rapid evaluations were guided by the principle of *utilisation-focused evaluation* which aims to facilitate decision making for the end users of the evaluation (Patton, 2008).

Scope and Design

- Narrow literature review scope to reduce the number of reports that are reviewed.
- Develop the methodology to ensure data collection and analysis take place in parallel.
- Aim to use existing data and minimise new data collection. Use state-wide administrative data where possible.
- Limit survey length and completion time to 5 minutes. Distribute surveys electronically e.g. survey monkey.

Delivery

- Establish a small team for the rapid evaluation (2-4 full time staff) led by at least 1-2 experienced evaluators.
- Establish Evaluation Advisory Group meeting weekly
- Establish and use rapid evaluation templates
- While no formal ethics approval, implement an ethical framework approach.

Reporting

- Triangulate data to increase the validity and reliability of findings. Use a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods and multiple data sources.
- Include end users in evaluation advisory group and validate findings.
- Produce tailored end products outlining key findings and share widely with internal and external stakeholders

Questions?

For further information contact:

Eleanor Williams

Eleanor.Williams@health.vic.gov.au

or

Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence

Department of Health

cere@health.vic.gov.au

