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Painting a complete picture

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“Contemporary applied research and evaluation practice rests firmly on the foundation of providing credible evidence. If that foundation is shaky, or built on sand, studies wobble, sway in the wind, and ultimately provide little value, and can even mislead or harm.”

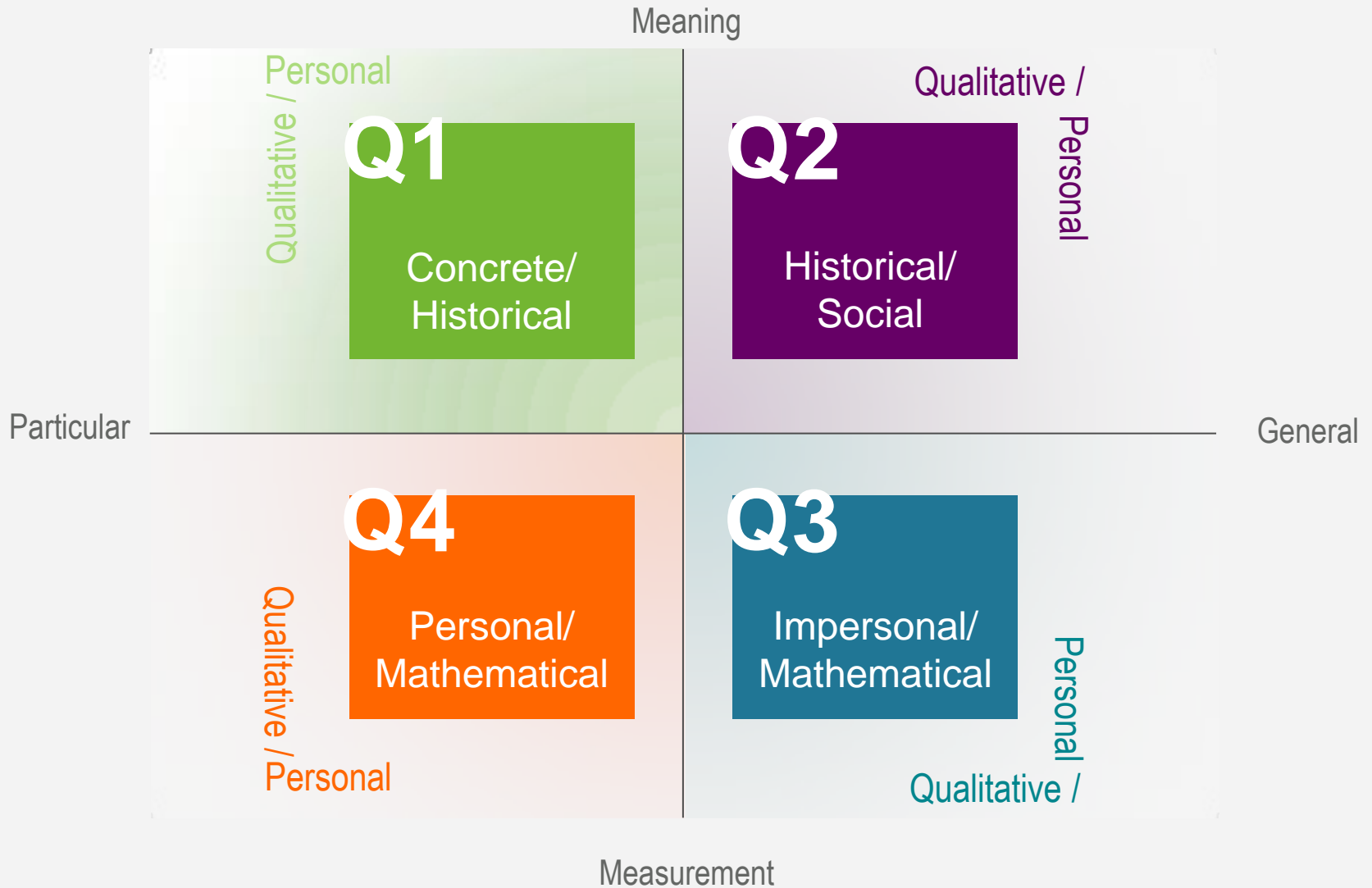
(Donaldson et al, 2009:6)

**“NOTHING IS PERFECT. LIFE IS MESSY.
RELATIONSHIPS ARE COMPLEX. OUTCOMES ARE
UNCERTAIN. PEOPLE ARE IRRATIONAL.”**

HUGH MACKAY



Taxonomy of evidence



“Analysis is a process of generating, developing, and verifying concepts – a process that builds over time and with the acquisition of data.”

(Corbin & Strauss, 2008:57)

- Focus on mixed methods – qualitative, quantitative, economic
- Focus on innovation – important data may require new methods
- Focus on kaleidoscopic perspective
- Choose the theoretical framework and decide the evaluation questions at the beginning
- Create a continual feedback loop

- Too often, the data required for economic analysis is an after thought – so what's available is inadequate
- The choice of CBA or CEA is then not really a choice – and frequently neither approach is possible
- So what is a sensible approach?



Cost benefit

Cost effectiveness

Financial efficiency

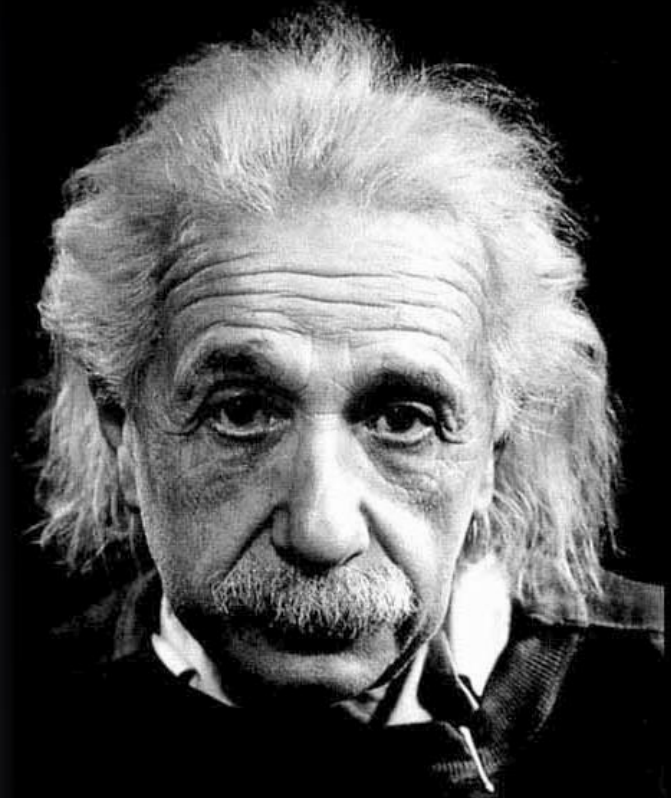
SROI

How do we decide?

- What can be collected? From where/whom?
- When and how long?
- How clear is the attribution?
- How sustainable are the outcomes?
- What are the costs of collection?
- *Requires a CBA of the CBA!*

“Everything should be made
as simple as possible,
but not simpler.”

Albert Einstein



Concept mapping

Economic

Employment opportunities

Health

Social service provision

Education

Crime

Incarceration

Housing affordability

Social

Family functioning

Social cohesion

Intergenerational impacts

Self esteem

Physical activity




Networks

Environmental

Sustainability

Green space

Reduced consumption of energy and water

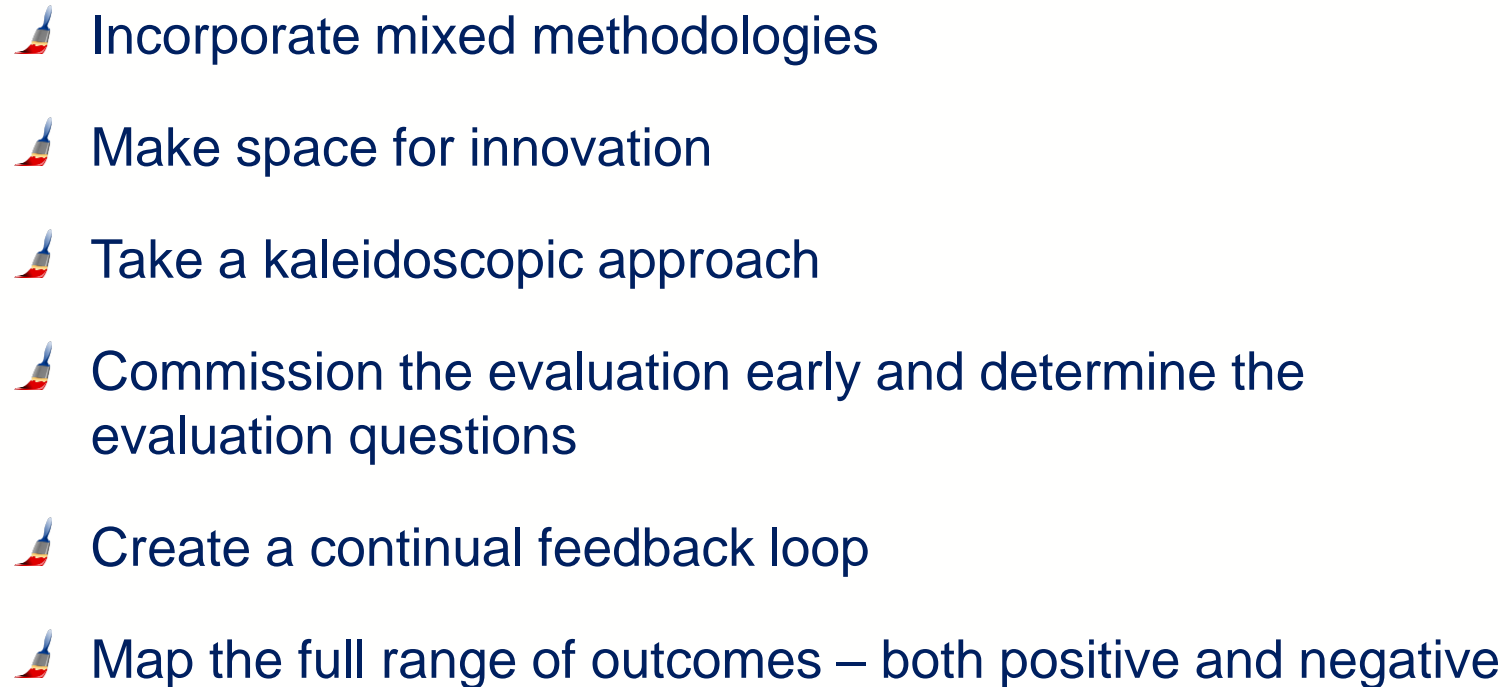
-  Ability Links NSW (ALNSW) is one of a number of resources available to support people in NSW with disability and their families and carers.
-  Increased community connectedness and engagement for people with disability core to the ALNSW philosophy; but still needs to demonstrate it's 'value'
-  SROI seen as the best means to capture and quantify both 'hard' and 'soft' outcomes



- Forecast SROI – based on first 16 months outcomes
- 106 ‘case studies’ based on in-depth interviews with Linkers
- Outcomes clustered across six areas:
 - Employment, work experience and volunteering
 - Education
 - Improved access to community and social networks
 - Increased diversity of disability services in the community
 - Increased mobility and independence
 - Benefits to family and carers



To recap

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- A person wearing a black cap and a dark shirt is seen from the back, painting a vibrant mural of a mountain landscape. The mural features green hills, white snow-capped peaks, and a bright yellow sun. The person is using a brush to apply paint to the wall.
- 🎨 Incorporate mixed methodologies
 - 🎨 Make space for innovation
 - 🎨 Take a kaleidoscopic approach
 - 🎨 Commission the evaluation early and determine the evaluation questions
 - 🎨 Create a continual feedback loop
 - 🎨 Map the full range of outcomes – both positive and negative

Any questions

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