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Engaging with complex systems evaluation of peer and community-led interventions

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Australian Research Centre in
Sex, Health and Society

In collaboration with Living Positive Victoria



W3 project.org.au

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Research Centre
in Sex, Health
& Society  25 Years of partnership
and collaboration

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Disclosure

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- *Australian Department of Health,*
- *ViiV Healthcare,*
- *National Association of People Living with HIV,*
- *Living Positive Victoria,*
- *Queensland Positive People,*
- *Positive Life NSW,*
- *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations*

- *Indebted to the participation of PLHIV in research*

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What Works and Why (W3) Project

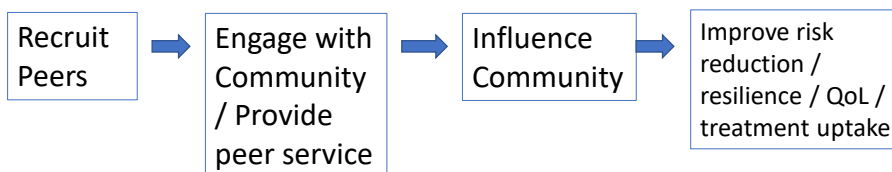
W3 Project took a systems approach to develop a **program theory for peer based programs** to guide their planning, evaluation and evolution in a changing social and biomedical environment



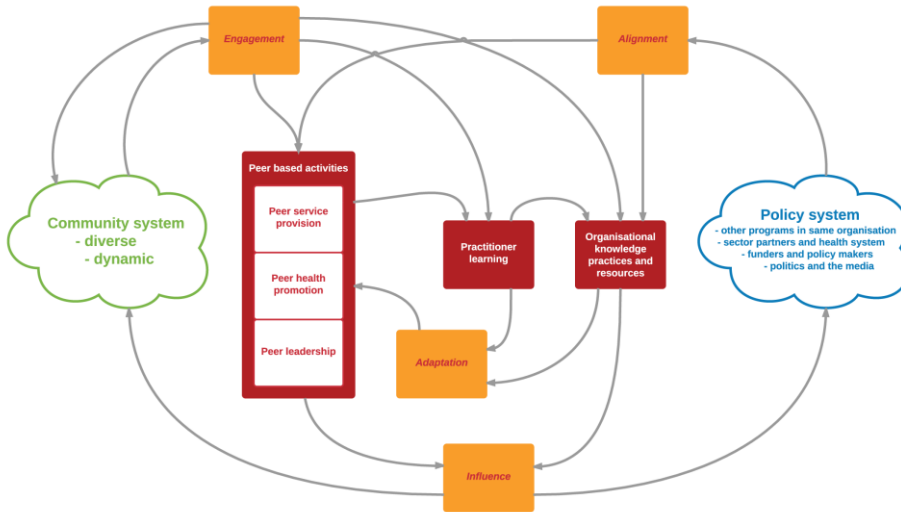
Instead of this....



For example...



We found this....



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The W3 Framework for Learning and Evaluation in peer and community based health promotion

The four key functions are things that need to be happening for a program to be effective and sustainable in a constantly changing environment.

Function	Definition
Engagement	How the program engages with community to maintain up to date mental models of the diversity and dynamism of needs, experiences and identities in its target communities.
Alignment	How the program picks up signals about what's happening in its policy environment and uses them to achieve stronger alignment, synergy and partnerships.
Learning and Adaptation	How the program uses peer skill to change and refine its approach according to new insights from engagement and alignment.
Influence	Community How the program uses the community's existing ways of doing things to promote new ways of doing things.
	Policy How the program achieves or mobilises influence on processes and outcomes within its policy environment.

Case example – Peer-led workshop for newly diagnosed



Phoenix Workshop

- Conducted multiple times per year
- 1.5 days long (Fri/Sat)
- Similar initiatives in most states and territories



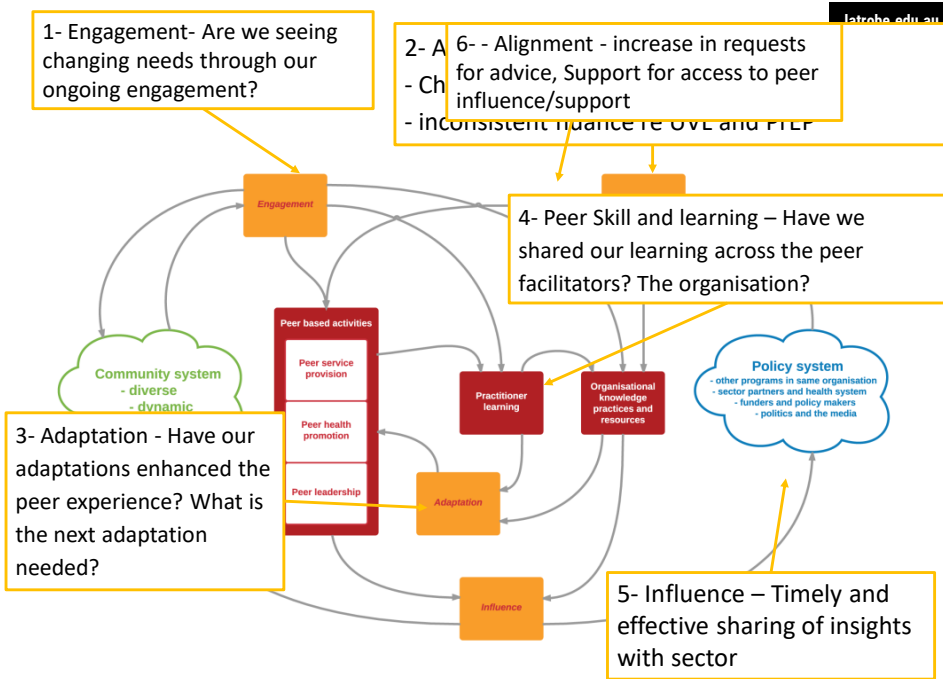
- **Example Recent changes**
- Adapted from 2.5 days to 1.5 days
- Interaction with TIM online network has changed rapidly



Function	Indicator	Source/data
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of PLHIV participating • Baseline resilience, health literacy and QoL • Compare to HIV Futures • Range of topics being discussed 	Participant pre eval Facilitator feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner / referring organisations relationship to Phoenix • Alignment of messages on key topics 	Profile monitoring Participant feedback post interview
Learning, Adaptation and peer skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing dominant topics • Peer interaction, relevance, experience • Facilitation and peer skill 	Facilitator feedback Participant feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience, health literacy and QoL • Post workshop interview • Word of mouth referral 	Participant post eval Community and social media profile monitoring
Influence (Impact)	Community	Participant post eval Community and social media profile monitoring
	Policy (Leadership)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collation of peer insights shared within LPV, and with partner organisations in sector • Partner orgs seeking advice/insights

Please Rate the Workshop on the Below Factors

Group Factors		quality of peer interaction between participants
1. Participants report being satisfied with workshop		
2. Observed participants engaging with workshop activities		
3. Observed supportive dialogue between participants (validation, sharing experiences)		
4. Group agreements observed by participants		
5. Tensions positively resolved by participants (if any)		
6. Participants were inclusive during workshop activities		
Program Content Factors		Peer relevance and engagement with content
7. Participants appear to have improved confidence (body language, talking about HIV)		
8. Observed participants engaging with workshop activities		
Facilitator Factors		Peer skill and facilitator skills
9. The "anxieties and wishes" participants expressed were covered by workshop		
10. Participants appear to have improved confidence (receiving/giving feedback, talking about HIV, stigma and community engagement and volunteering).		
11. You had enough knowledge + experience as a peer		
12. You had enough skills + capacity as a facilitator		
13. Your rapport with participants		
14. You felt supported as a facilitator		
15. Your sense of satisfaction/accomplishment in delivering the workshop		



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In closing.....

The rapid changes will test the whole HIV response, including peer led programs and leadership. ...Real time on the ground insights will be key

However, Important insights not shared due to

- assumptions they are already understood by organisations,
- not be packaged in way that make them timely and influential externally; or
- barriers in the sector to insights from and to peer led programs.



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Thank you

- Living Positive Victoria,
- Harm Reduction Victoria
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- National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS,
- Western Australian Substance Users Association,
- Queensland Positive People,
- Positive Life NSW.
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- Scarlet Alliance – Australian Sex Workers Association,
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