



Australian Centre for  
Child Protection

# Findings from the EIRD Desktop Evaluations

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# Vision & Objectives

- A service system matched to population need
- Programs and practitioners supported to provide high quality, evidence aligned interventions
- Capacity building priorities informed by understanding of existing service system strengths and limitations

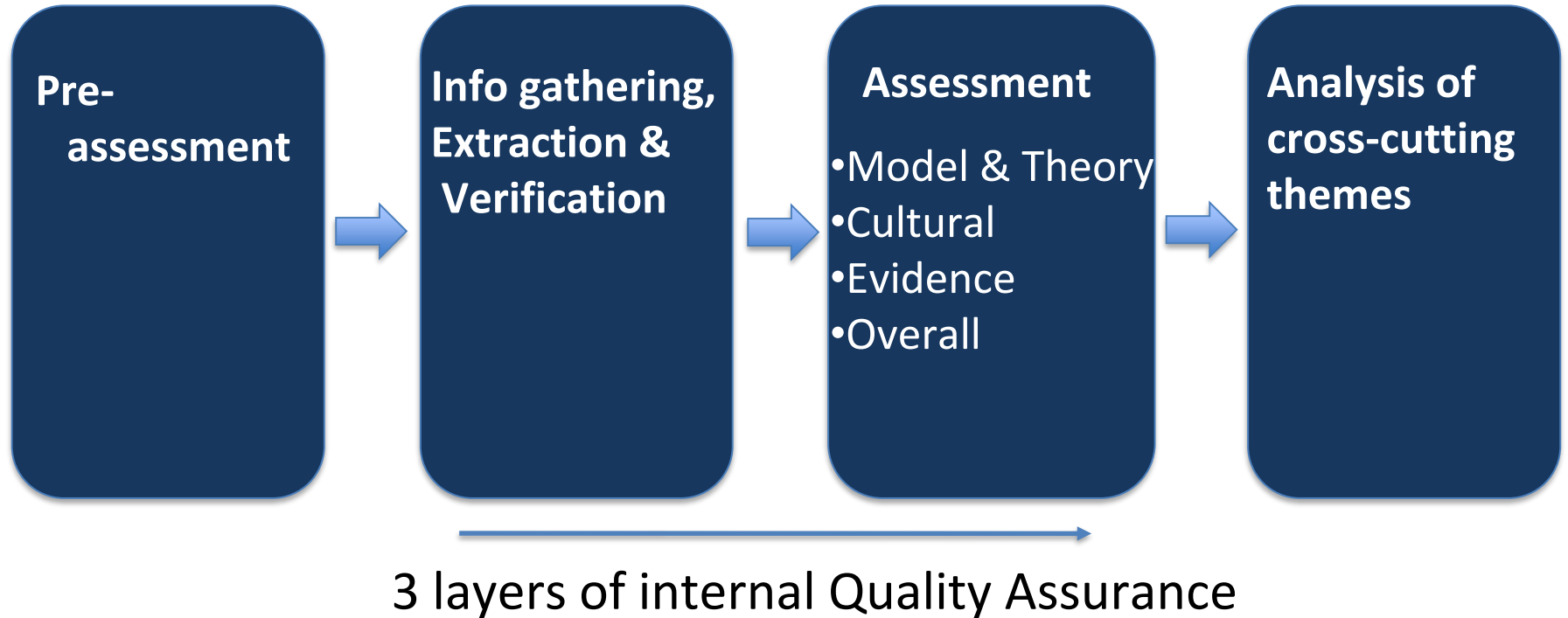
# Staged work program

- Pre-assessment (complete):
  - Programs against child abuse prevention objectives
- Program group 1 (complete):
  - Programs with the most direct child abuse prevention objectives
- Program group 2 (in progress):
  - Programs with indirect child abuse objectives

# Progress to date

- Progress to date:
  - 222 programs pre-assessed for CAP objectives (complete)
  - Program grouping 1 – 56/56 programs (complete)
  - Program grouping 2 – 38/50 programs (in progress)
- This presentation: Findings from completed stages

# Target Group to Outcomes: Methodology:



# The Program Summary & Logic Model

- **Target Group** (the WHO)
- **Activities** (the WHAT, WHEN, and HOW)
- **Outcomes, Aims and Objectives** (the WHY)
- **Program Reach** (the WHERE)
- **Workforce** (qualifications, training, and development)
- **Inputs and resources** (referral, location, and funding)

# Assessment Methodology:

## Program Model/Theory Assessment

- **Program summary:** well articulated?
- **Program logic:** Target Group, Outcomes, Activities and Workforce aligned?

# Assessment Methodology:

## Evidence Matching Assessment

- Evidence Reviews - evaluations of similar program types and/or program components
- For effective programs, identify:
  - Aims/Objectives
  - Target Group
  - Activities - program components and approaches
  - Intensity and duration of service provision
  - Minimum workforce qualifications and training
- Comparative assessment:
  - SA program model matched to evidence

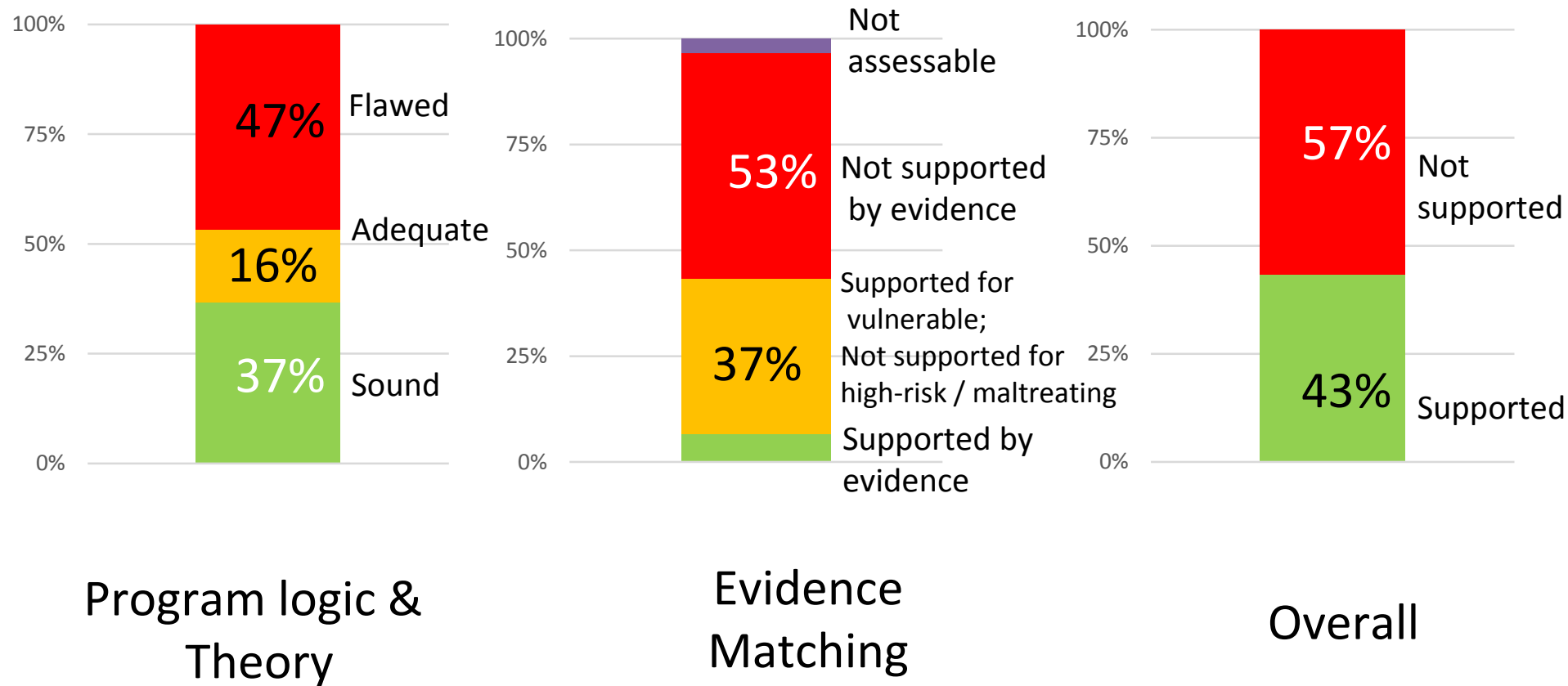


# Pre-assessment findings

- Direct child abuse prevention investment substantially smaller than had been assumed

48%

# Individual Program Assessment Findings



# Findings

## *Cross-Cutting Themes*

# Program Model

- Many programs lacked a well-articulated service model
- Evidence suggests that such a model is central to the effectiveness of a program
- Approaches and strategies key gap
- Role of contracting
- Characteristics of a well developed program theory

# Workforce

- Two broad types of service models
  - Formalised approaches
  - Professional model
- Practitioners frequently not adequately prepared to provide the program or intervention
- Pre-requisite qualifications
- Pre / In Service training and accreditation
- Clinical governance

# High Risk / Maltreating Families

- Programs designed for high risk/maltreating families were largely **not supported** for child abuse prevention
- generally due to lower than indicated intensity, longer duration and substantially lower workforce qualifications and training

# High Risk / Maltreating Families

- High risk and maltreating populations had largely the same characteristics
- Key differentiation - systems categorisation
- Internationally, evidence-base of programs for maltreating families is poor
  - More entrenched problems, more complex family structures?
  - Impacts of systems failures?
- International models lack key elements for SA context

# Vulnerable families

- Programs designed for vulnerable families were generally **supported** by evidence for the intended target group
- Evidence is highly variable in terms of program models found to be effective
- Evidence **is** consistent in pointing to important of program theory / logic
- Many SA programs could benefit from strengthening of program theory



# Target Group Drift

- Programs designed for vulnerable families are not supported for high risk/maltreating families
- Due to demand & incident based family categorisation - programs designed for vulnerable families delivered to high risk/maltreating families, reducing their effectiveness
- Similar drift with family preservation programs providing largely reunification services

# Needs, Gaps & Opportunities

- Investment in what works
- Support for adopting, adapting and developing high quality programs
- Workforce capacity building
- Implementation support
- Family rather than systems classifications
- More high quality programs for families with high risk for child maltreatment



*“Where there is no vision,  
there is no hope”*

George Washington Carver