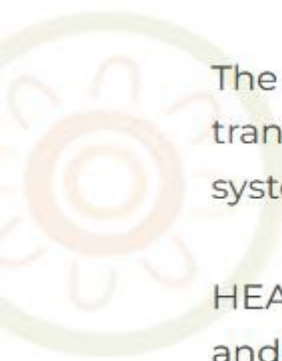



HEAL Network in WA





HEAL Network



The vision of the **Healthy Environments And Lives (HEAL)** Network is to catalyse research, knowledge exchange and translation into policy and practice that will bring measurable improvements to our health, the Australian health system, and the environment.

HEAL is a democratic research network with strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, and regional hubs and communities of practice from across Australia.

HEAL aims to:

1. Protect and improve public health, especially the health of at-risk groups in regions and communities disproportionately affected by environmental and climate change.
2. Strengthen health system resilience, preparedness and responsiveness to changing environmental conditions and related diseases, and reduce the health system's environmental impact.
3. Reduce inequities and inequalities within and across communities and generations.



Grounding the Network

- The HEAL Network is grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander science, culture, knowledge and wisdom
- Cross-cutting theme



THE JOURNEY OF HEAL SO FAR



Researchers had been lobbying to fund work in Climate Change and Health



National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

We will fund a network focussed on environmental change and health



- Organisers
- Researchers
- Policy Makers
- Elders

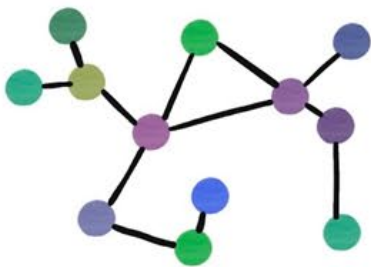
Who agreed that the work needed to be



Two large groups applied, agreeing to collaborate, no matter who was successful



Grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural science, knowledge and wisdom & Participatory processes & Co-designed with those who are disproportionately impacted or at the largest risk



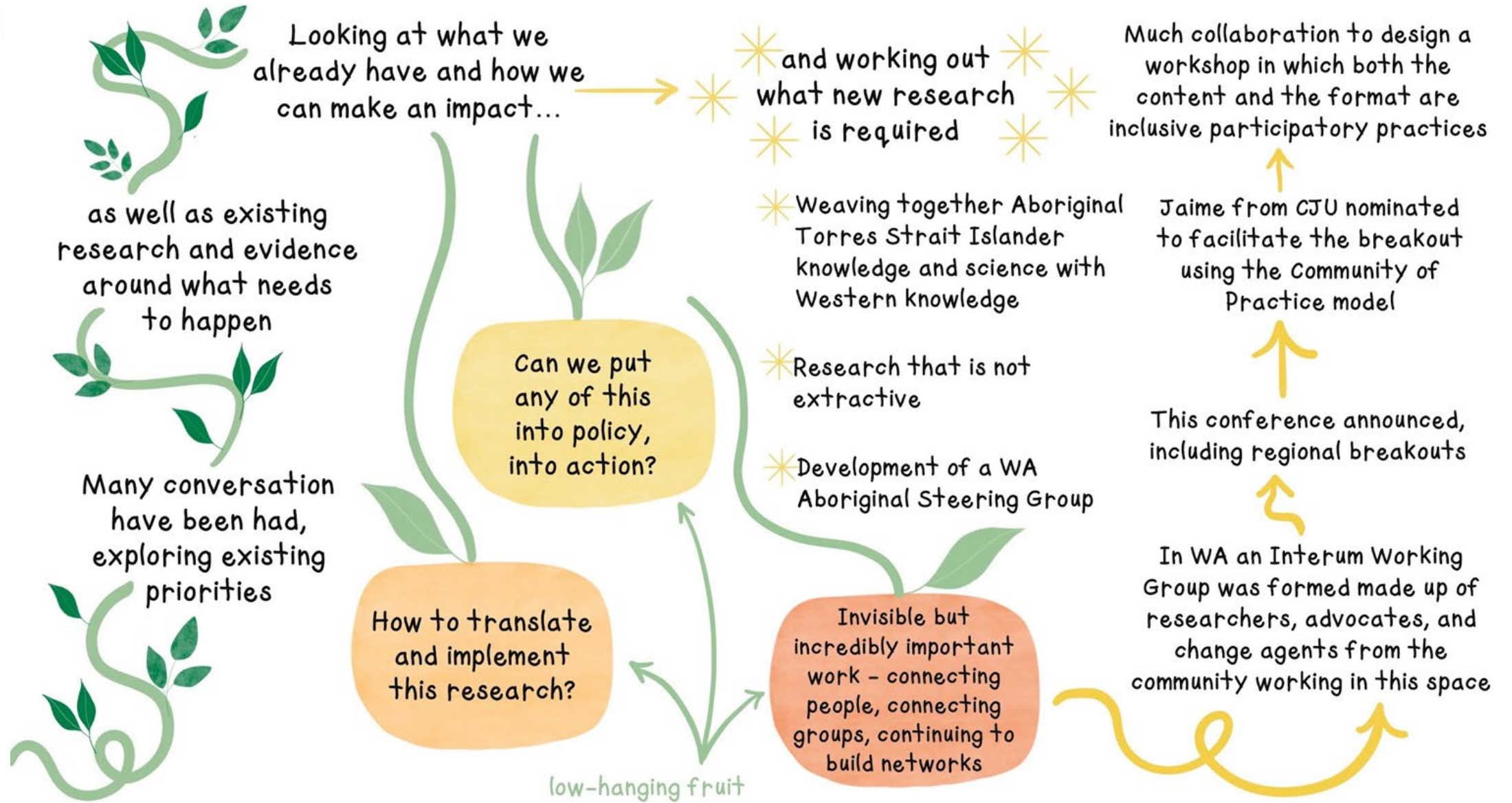
and finding our place in an already complex space, an existing network

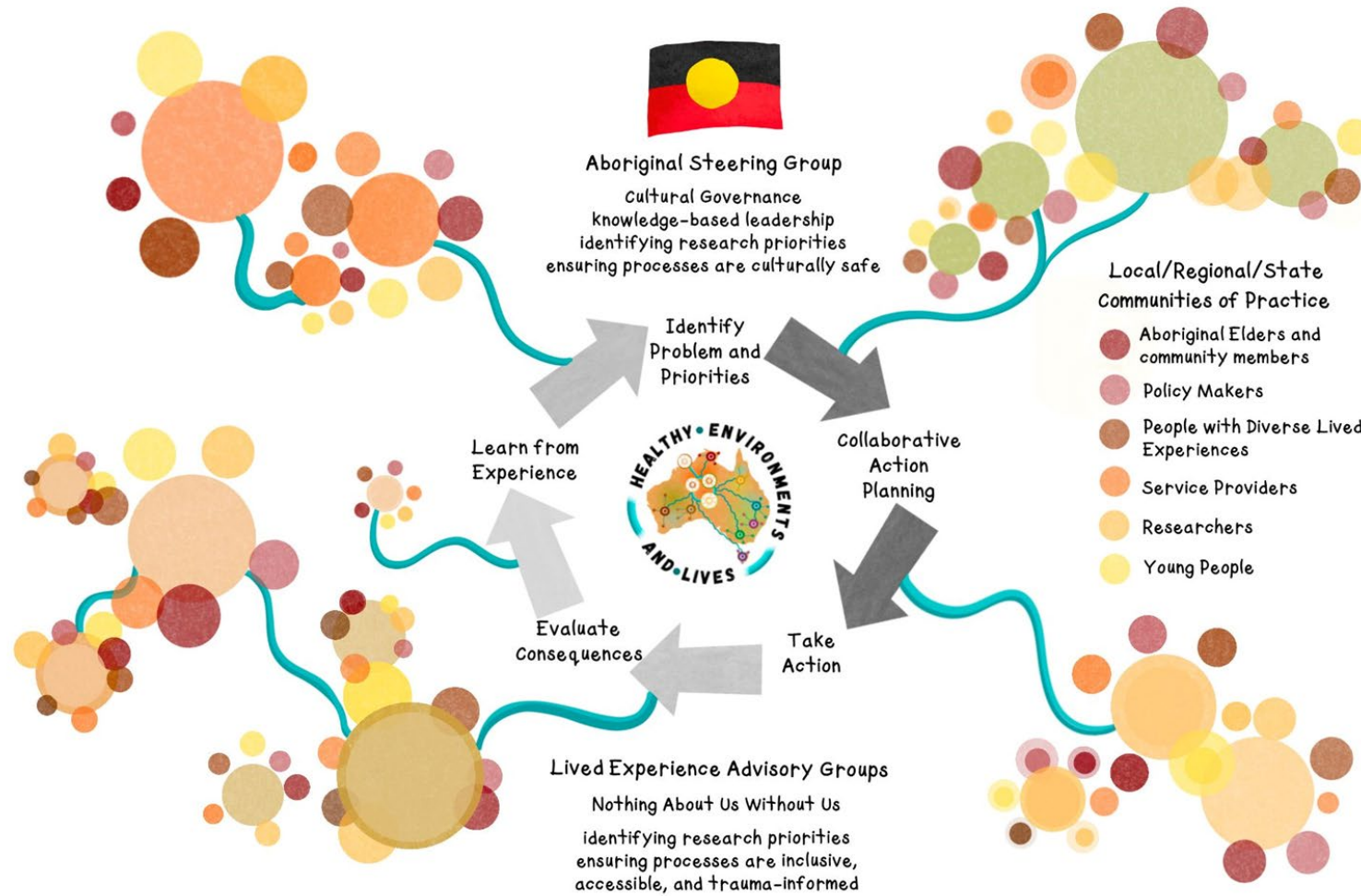


As well as establishing relationships



Time was spent developing foundational documents and processes



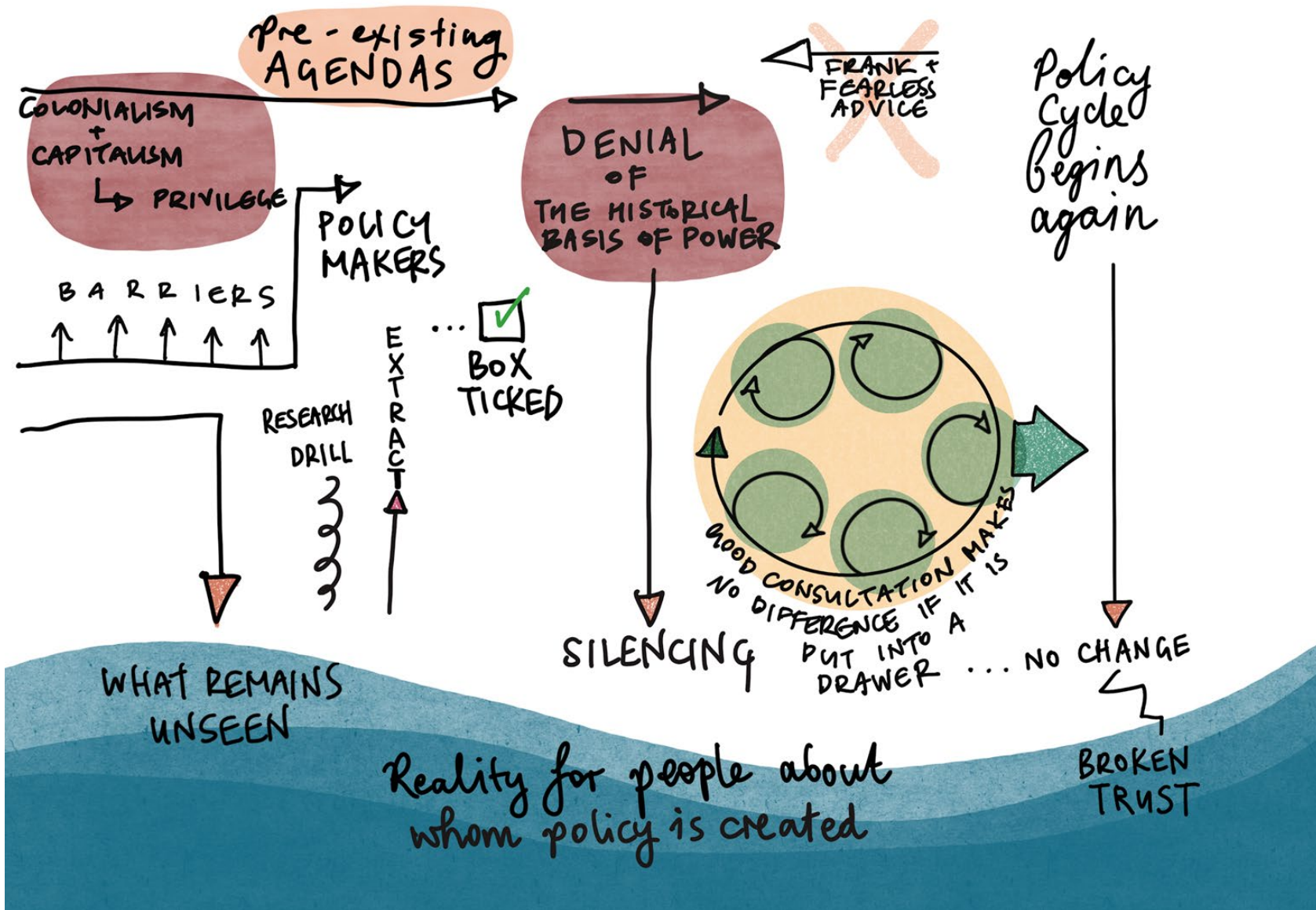






HEAL
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS
AND LIVES
National Change
in Health

Toilets





Barriers to addressing white supremacy and colonialism

Lack of understanding of Aboriginal knowledge and how it is applied

Timelines too short to build trust needed for meaningful consultation - and then trust that has been developed is BROKEN when reports are not reviewed for accuracy and policy doesn't reflect CONTENT

Political interference

Funding cycles and timelines at the whim of power holders who benefit from that power

Government beholden to industry

Deprioritisation of First Nations issues due to constant regulatory changes that are mandatory for compliance



Frank and fearless has morphed into ‘protecting the minister’

Siloed funding - ‘oh we can’t possibly fund that as the outcomes come under x y z portfolio’

An unwillingness to ‘co-fund’ things because ‘how would that work / I can’t share the positive outcomes’

Grants funding being allocated to orgs and researchers that know how to write grant applications but do not have the involvement of cultural knowledge holders and / or those with lived experience

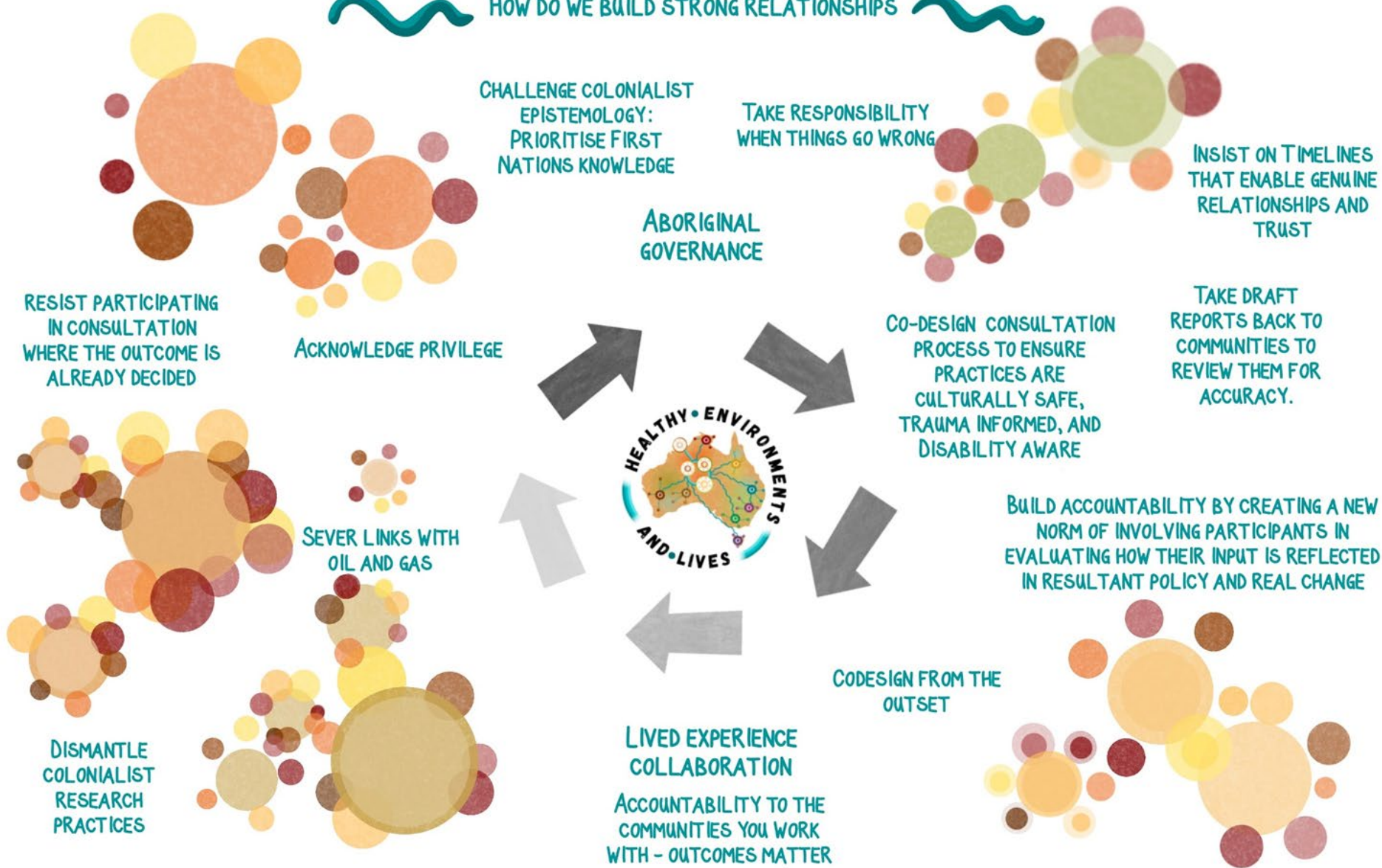
Layers of hierarchy of ‘sign off’ in government institutions, many barriers to initiate change

Co-design processes that have and outcome output already decided

Taboo - “during my time in government I heard the word colonialism mentioned just once. We don’t talk about these things (not to mention white supremacy)”



HOW DO WE BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS





Together we share a commitment to travelling together.

We will do this with kindness, care, transparency, accountability and truth.

Those of us with privileges commit to yielding space and power and calling out when diverse perspectives and those most impacted are not included in decision making or 'not there'

