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The Difference is Research

## Background

- Aboriginal Australians experience a higher burden of harm as a consequence of their own or others alcohol use (Calabria et al 2010).
- Community-based interventions have the potential to reduce these high levels of alcohol related harms especially when these are developed in collaboration with the local community and built on existing evidence-base (Shakeshaft et al 2014).
- Using a systematic approach, such as Intervention Mapping, can foster community participation and evidence-based intervention development (Bartholomew et al 2006).

## Aim

To describe the systematic development of multi-component community-based interventions aiming to reduce alcohol related harms among Aboriginal people in three rural towns in New South Wales.

## Implementation Committees (IC)

- ICs were established to facilitate community engagement
- The ICs oversee the development, implementation and the culturally appropriateness of the interventions.
- IC members varied in each community, but generally included representatives from Aboriginal health services, hospital, police, TAFE, school and Local Aboriginal Lands Council and Aboriginal community leaders.

Figure 3 – Rural project towns

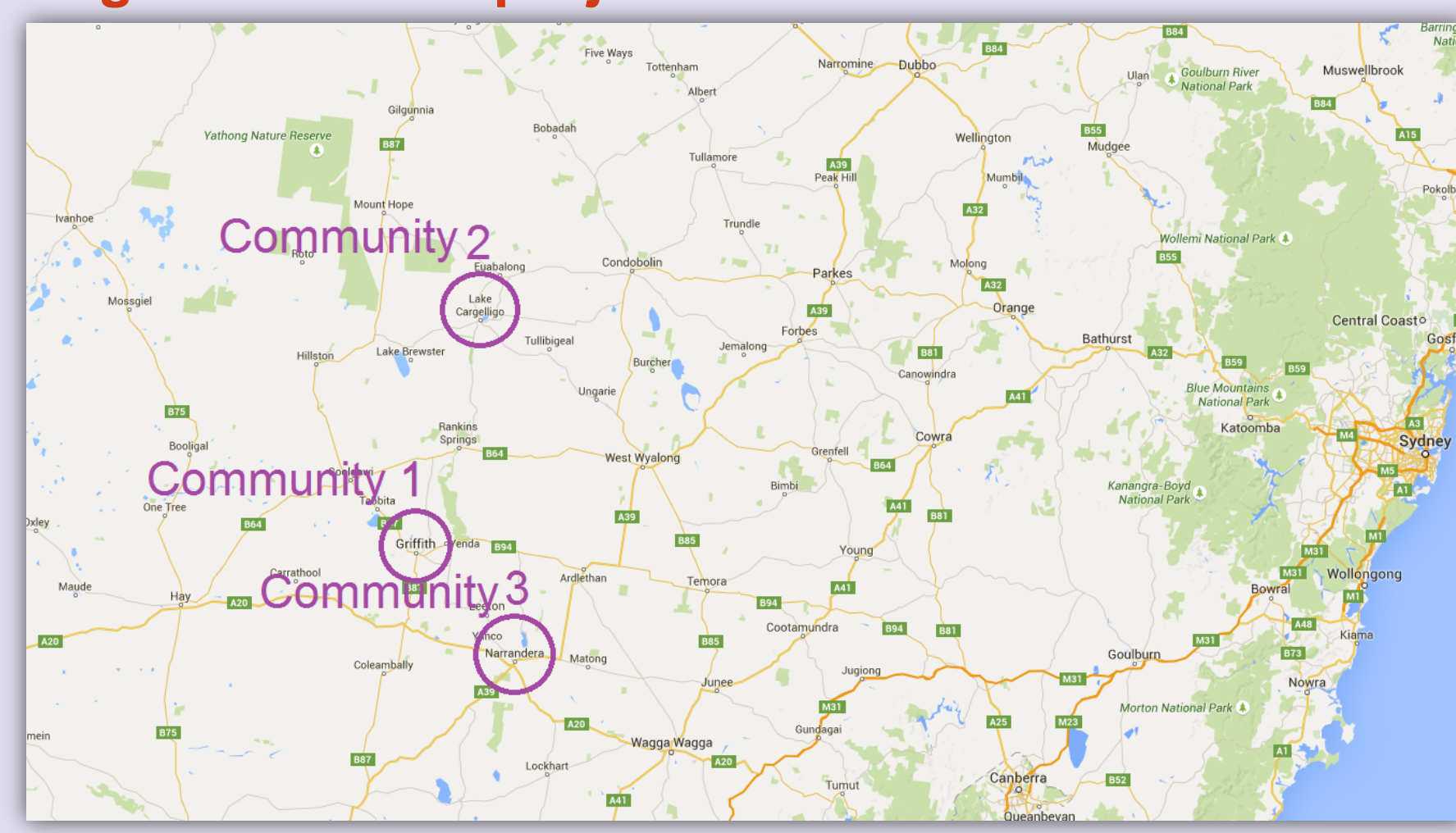


Figure 3: Intervention Development Community 2

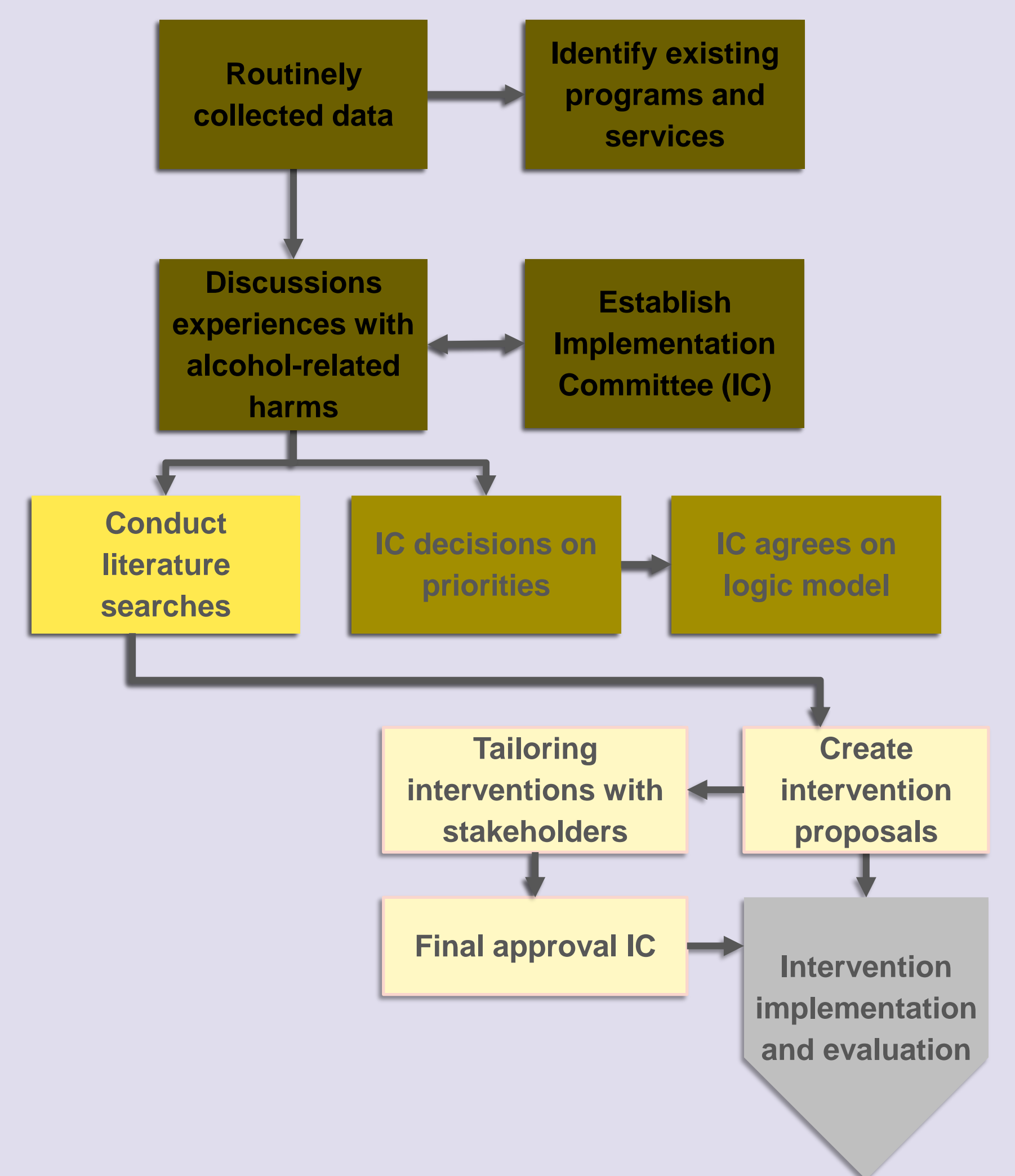
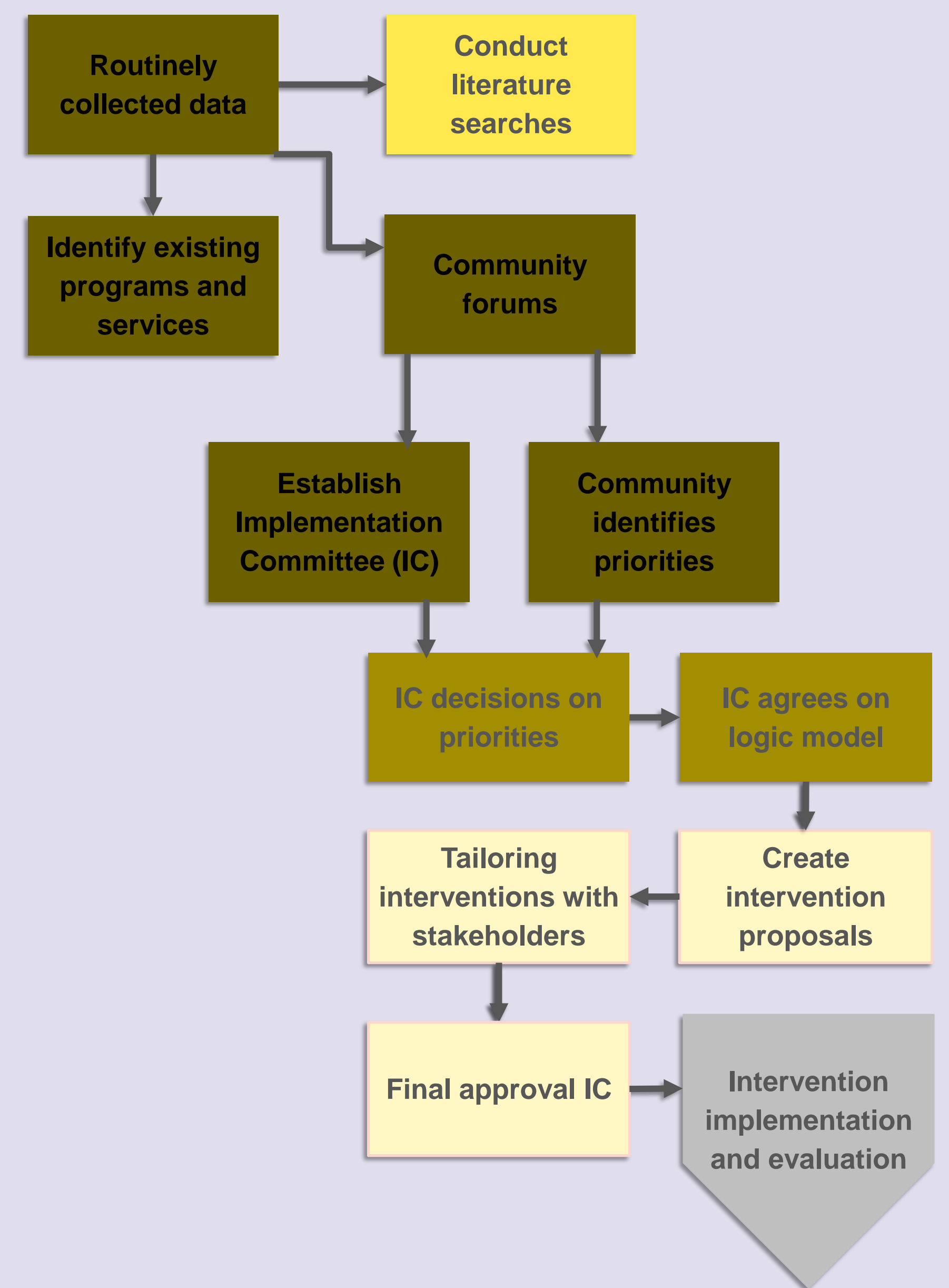


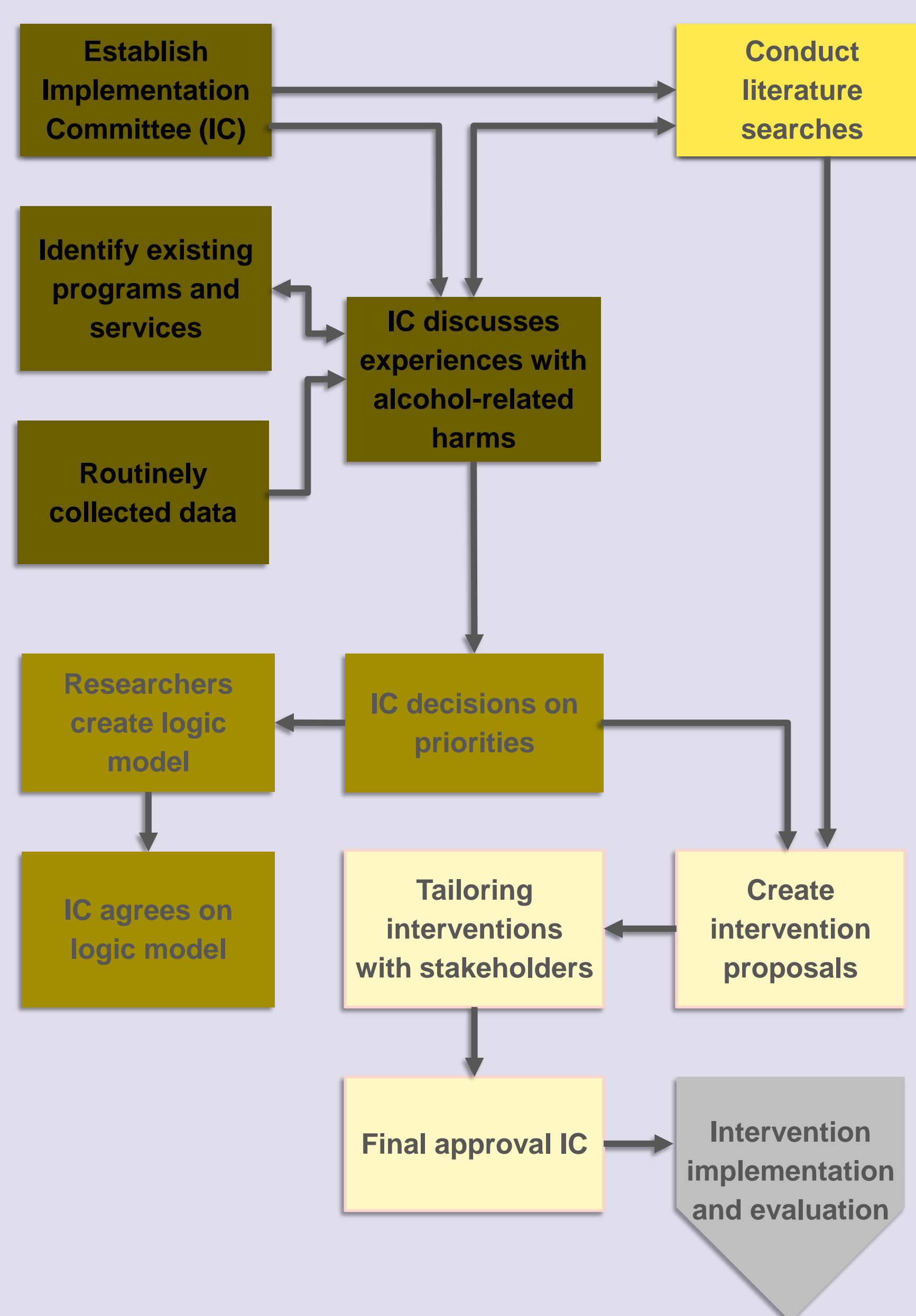
Figure 4 – Intervention Development Community 3



## Results

Figure 2 – 4 illustrate how IM steps were taken in each community.

Figure 2 – Intervention Development Community 1



- Legend:
- = Needs Assessment
  - = Setting Objectives
  - = Identifying Evidence-Based Interventions
  - = Program Development
  - = Implementation and Evaluation

## Methods: Intervention Mapping (IM)

Interventions were developed according to the six Intervention Mapping steps (Bartholomew et al 2006):

- Needs Assessment:** identifying needs and priorities by combining routinely collected data, communities' experiences and information on existing programs and services.
- Setting Objectives:** Implementation Committees decided on project objectives:
  - To support and improve service delivery to target group;
  - Provide engaging activities as an alternative to at risk behaviour; and
  - Improve empowerment of target group.
- Identifying Evidence-Based Interventions:** Researchers conducted literature searches to identify evidence-based interventions to inform Implementation Committees' decision making on development.
- Program Development:** Implementation Committees decided on interventions to implement and worked together with community stakeholders to tailor interventions in line with community priorities.
- Implementation:** Implement interventions.
- Evaluation:** Researchers collect and analyse data to evaluate effectiveness of interventions.

## Conclusion

- The flexibility of IM allows for the development of community-based interventions targeting Aboriginal people that account for community uniqueness.
- Partnerships with local organisations and community members are essential to make IM successful.
- Next steps will be to implement and formally evaluate the interventions, which will improve understanding of community-based Aboriginal-specific alcohol interventions, which has implications for future public health initiatives.