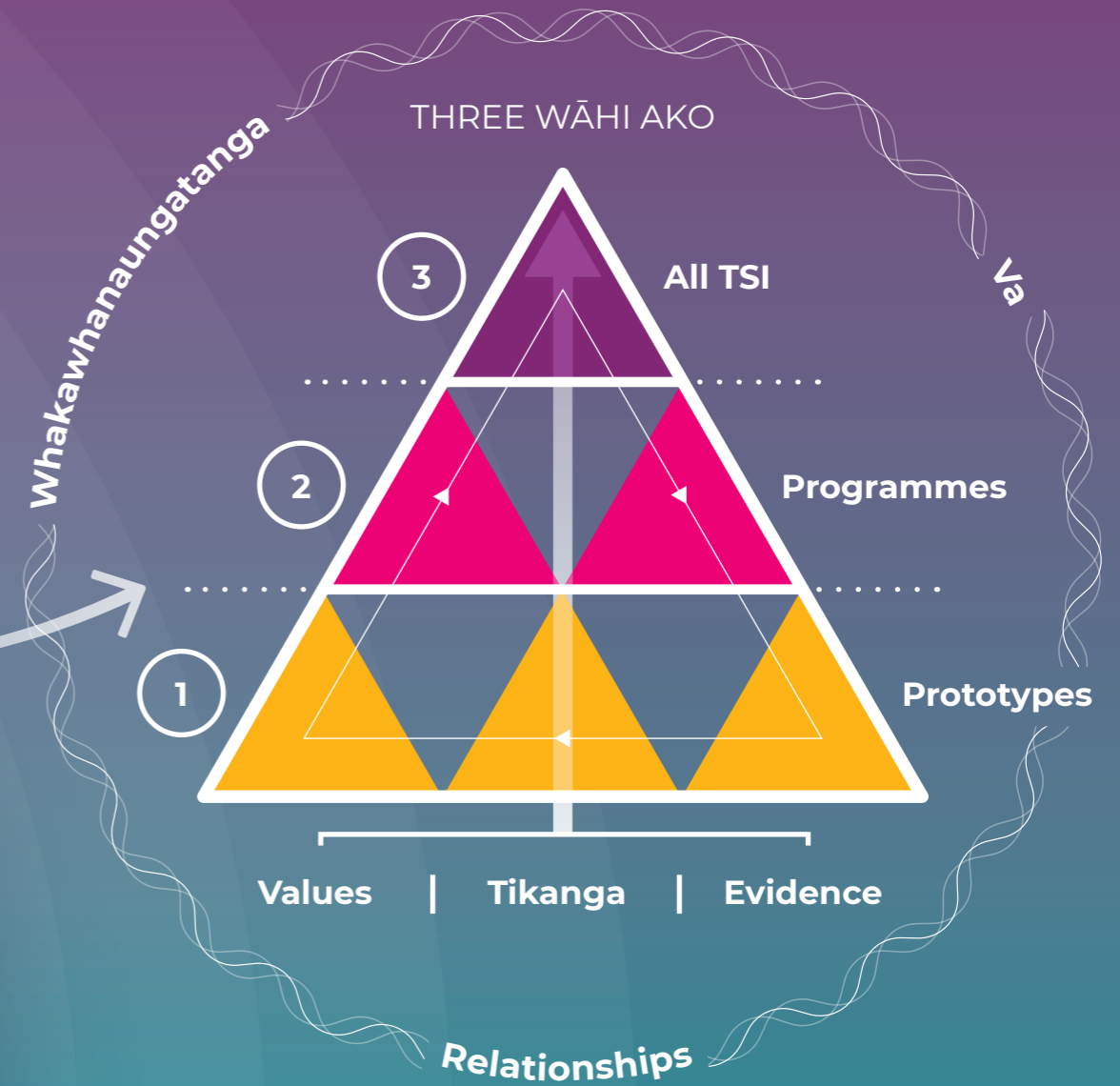# NIHO TANIWHA
A FRAMEWORK FOR NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY

The Niho Taniwha ('teeth of the taniwha') is a framework to help us navigate social change journeys. It helps us to chart our paths, read tohu, learn and adapt as we go.

LEARNING TO TRACK
AND TRACKING TO LEARN

THREE WĀHI AKO

Whakawhanaungatanga

Va

3 — All TSI

2 — Programmes

1 — Prototypes

Values | Tikanga | Evidence

Relationships

NIHO TANIWHA

The Niho Taniwha starts with a whāriki of values, tikanga and evidence. Three Wāhi Ako help us to ladder outcomes and learning up and down between our collective moemoea, different programmes and mahi on the ground.

NIHO TANIWHA **KAUPAPA**

Our work is about reconnecting to tangata whenua and Pasifika innovation to support social and economic transformation.

The Niho Taniwha is a values-led set of practices, that weave learning and evaluation through the innovation process. It is developed from working with whānau, communities and systems. It is grounded in Aotearoa and draws respectfully from mātauranga Māori.

The Niho Taniwha pattern has a rich whakapapa in Aotearoa and across the Pacific and helps locate us in Tāmaki Makaurau today.

THROUGH THE
NIHO TANIWHA WE...

- Foreground **indigenous knowledge, place and lived experience**

- Lead with **values, principles and tikanga**

- **Act and learn together** with whānau and systems partners

- **Generate practice-based** data and **evidence**

- Frame mahi in a complexity and **systems transformation** context

- **Track what matters** to whānau and communities

THREE **FOCUS AREAS** AND **WHĀRIKI**

ACROSS OUR MAHI WE PAY ATTENTION TO:

Outcomes for whānau

System changes

Strategic learning

We start with values, tikanga and evidence:
▸ Indigenous knowledge
▸ Western knowledge
▸ Lived experience

OCTOBER 2021

THE NIHO TANIWHA FRAMEWORK

Wāhi Ako Toru Zone 3
Longer term outcomes and learning laddered up from TSI's mahi, to guide our collective moemoea.

Wāhi Ako Rua Zone 2
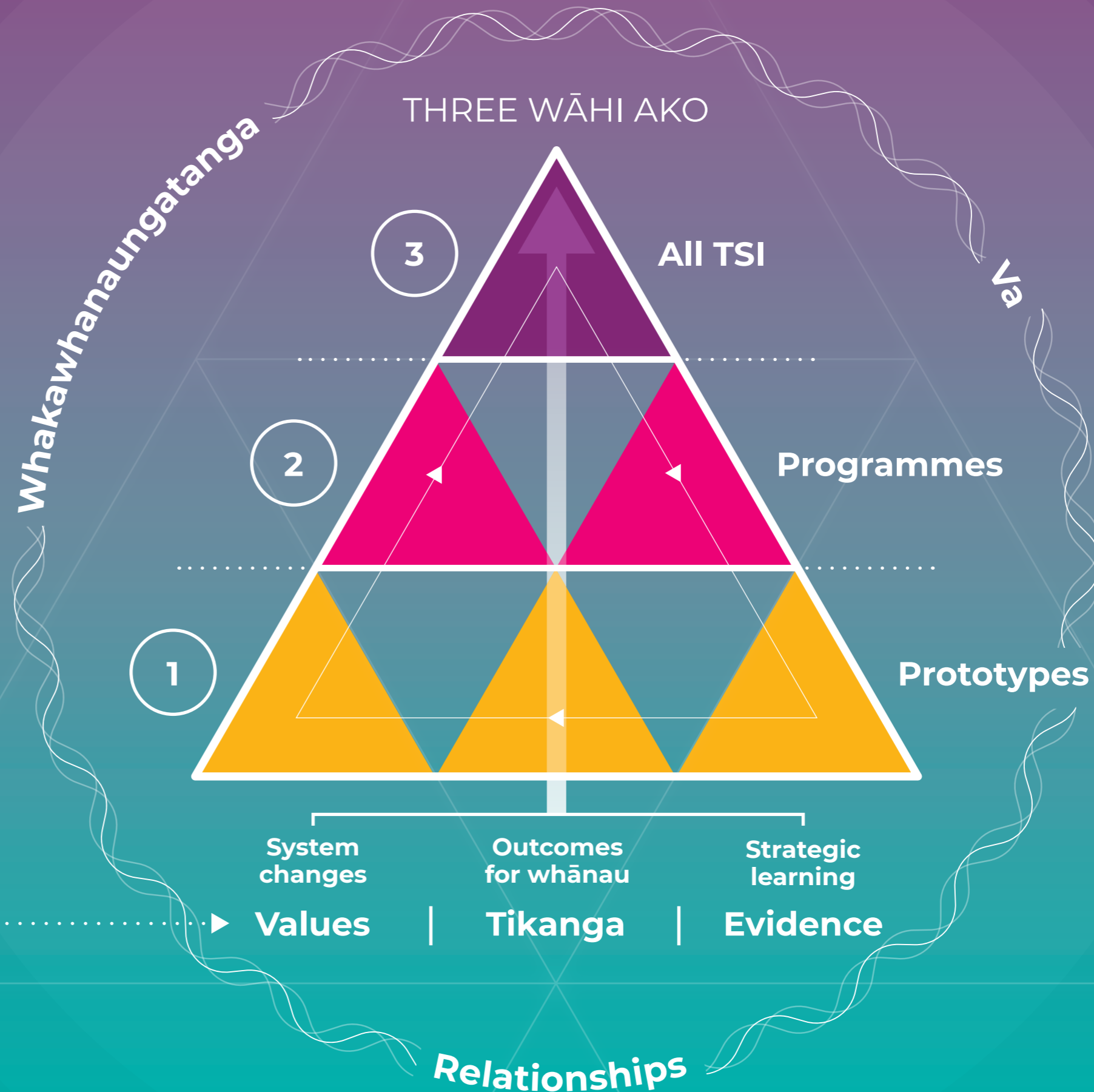Learning and outcomes at programme level, developed with whānau and partners from mahi on the ground.

Wāhi Ako Tahi Zone 1
Learning and outcomes from specific projects and prototypes.

Whāriki
The foundational values, tikanga and evidence that guide the mahi.

Whakawhanaungatanga

THREE WĀHI AKO

Va

3 — All TSI

2 — Programmes

1 — Prototypes

System changes | Outcomes for whānau | Strategic learning

Values | **Tikanga** | **Evidence**

Relationships

NIHO TANIWHA
TOOLSET
THE NIHO TANIWHA IS APPLIED THROUGH THESE TOOLS.

How we land on what we do and how we do it

Evidence Review

Theory of change

Canvas

How we gather information about our prototypes
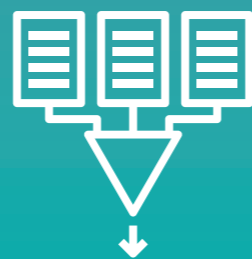
Basic data

Regular reflection

Reality testing

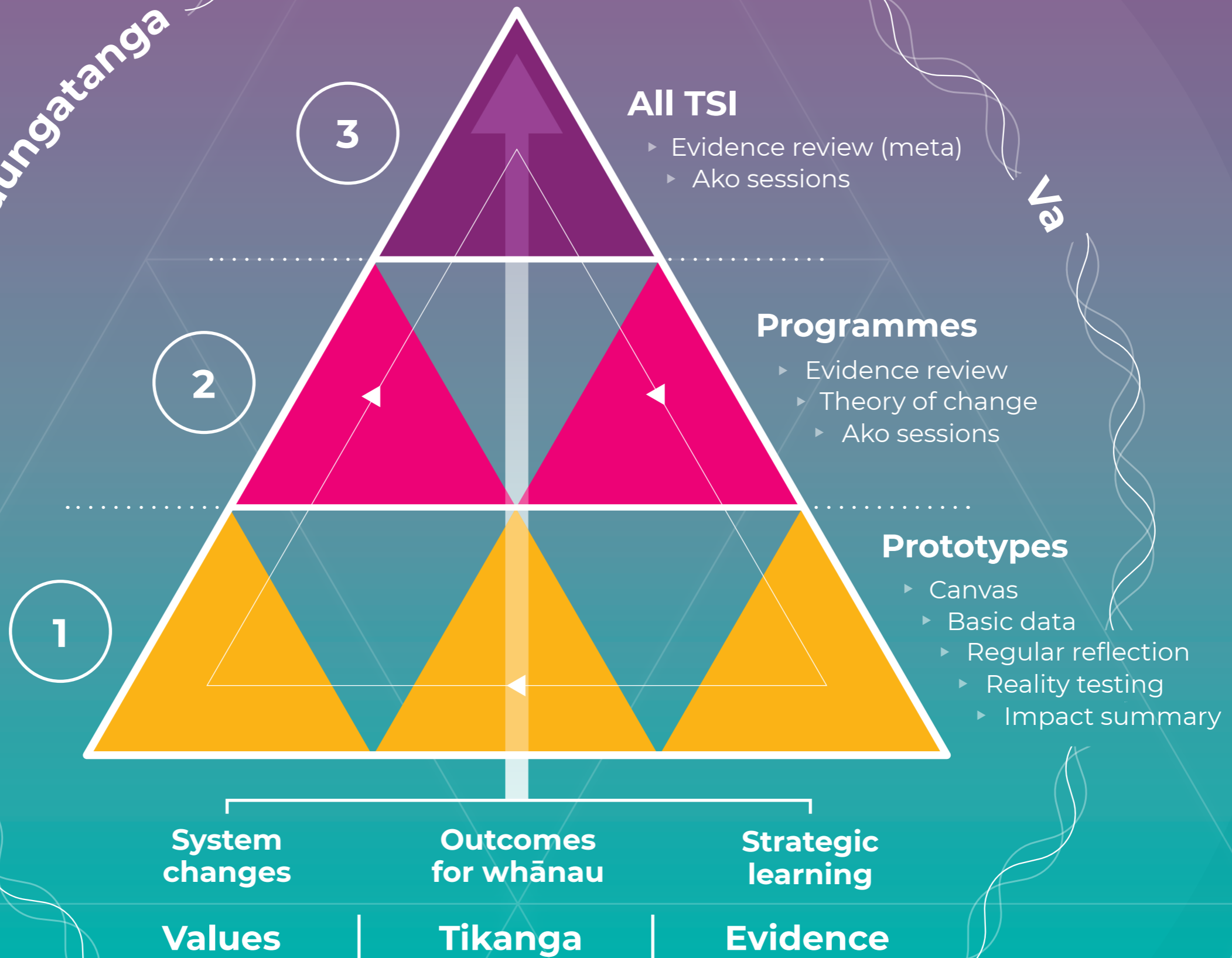**How we summarise and share impact and learning**
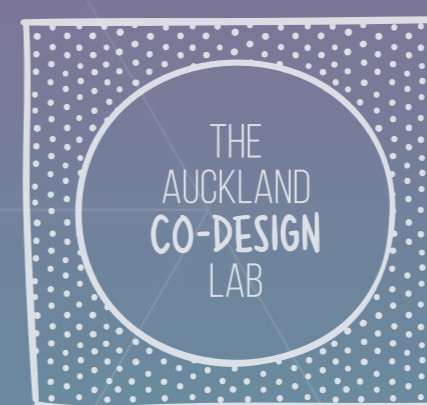
Impact summary

Ako sessions

APPLYING THE TOOLS

Whakawhanaungatanga

Va

3

All TSI
- ▸ Evidence review (meta)
- ▸ Ako sessions

2

Programmes
- ▸ Evidence review
- ▸ Theory of change
- ▸ Ako sessions

1

Prototypes
- ▸ Canvas
- ▸ Basic data
- ▸ Regular reflection
- ▸ Reality testing
- ▸ Impact summary

System changes **Outcomes for whānau** **Strategic learning**

Values | **Tikanga** | **Evidence**

NIHO TANIWHA
WHĀNAU

The
Southern
Initiative

THE AUCKLAND CO-DESIGN LAB

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

The
Western
Initiative