



Evaluating Many Rivers' Microenterprise Development Activities

Early findings

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Purpose of the study

- In 2012 Many Rivers approached Deloitte Access Economics to conduct a study of their microenterprise activities
- Many Rivers commissioned the research in order to
 - understand if they were making a difference
 - demonstrate value to current partners
 - demonstrate value to future partners
 - contribute to raising standards for evaluations of similar programs elsewhere in Australia

What we've done together

- We developed a framework for Many Rivers which identified information required to evaluate their economic and social impacts
- Many Rivers has since revamped their processes to capture an expanded range of data measuring these impacts
- We've reviewed their data collection fields and outputs, finding them to be largely consistent with our recommendations
- This is a significant advance in evidence collection and evaluation efforts among Australian not-for-profits and program delivery generally - a testimony to Many Rivers' dedication to making an impact

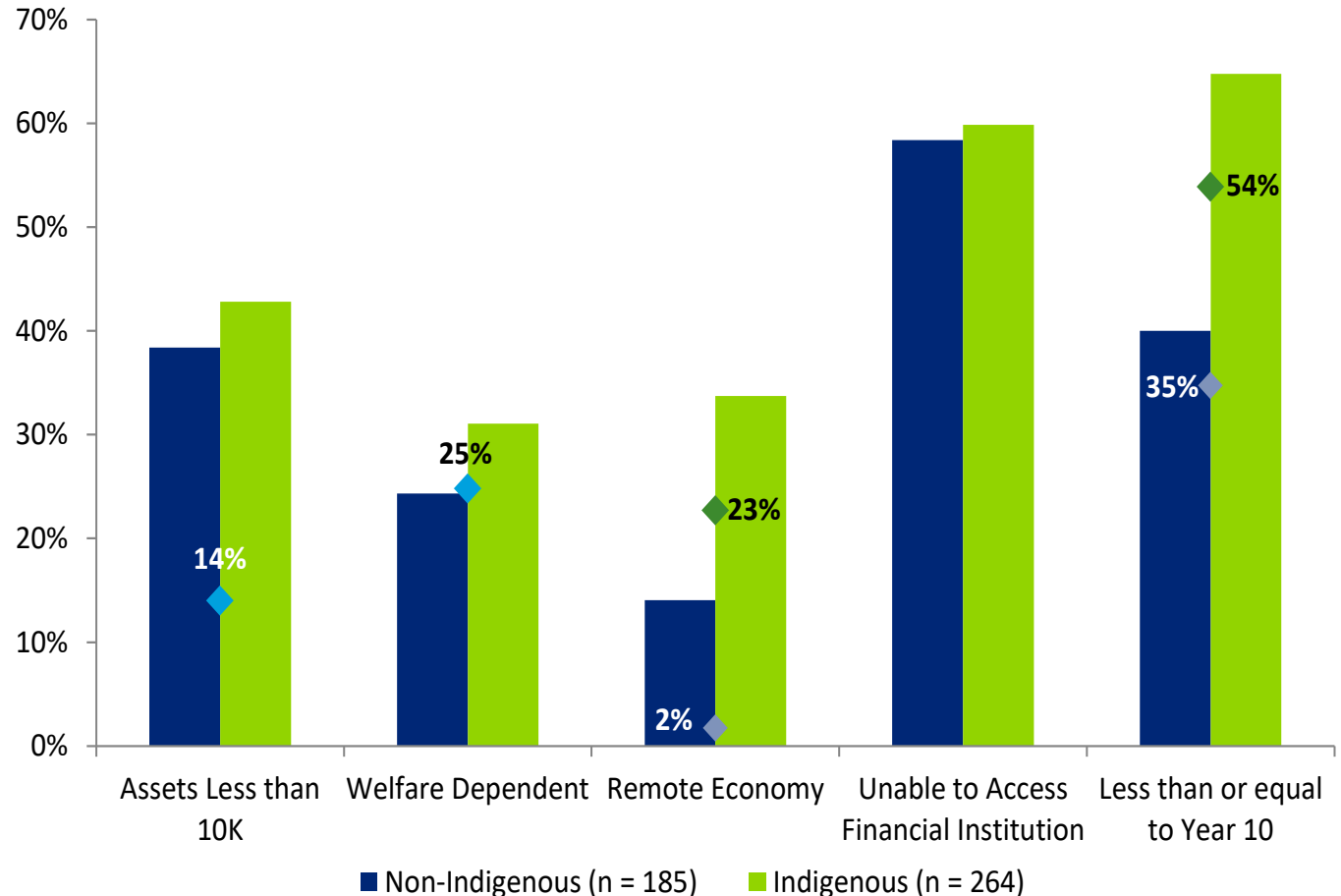
Today

- Based on early data that has already become available, we are in a position to make some early comments on the apparent effectiveness of Many Rivers' activities
- Some early questions on effectiveness we can consider are:
 - To what extent is Many Rivers is engaging with truly **disadvantage people**?
 - To what extent is Many Rivers contributing to the creation of **sustainable businesses**?

Client Data – Overview

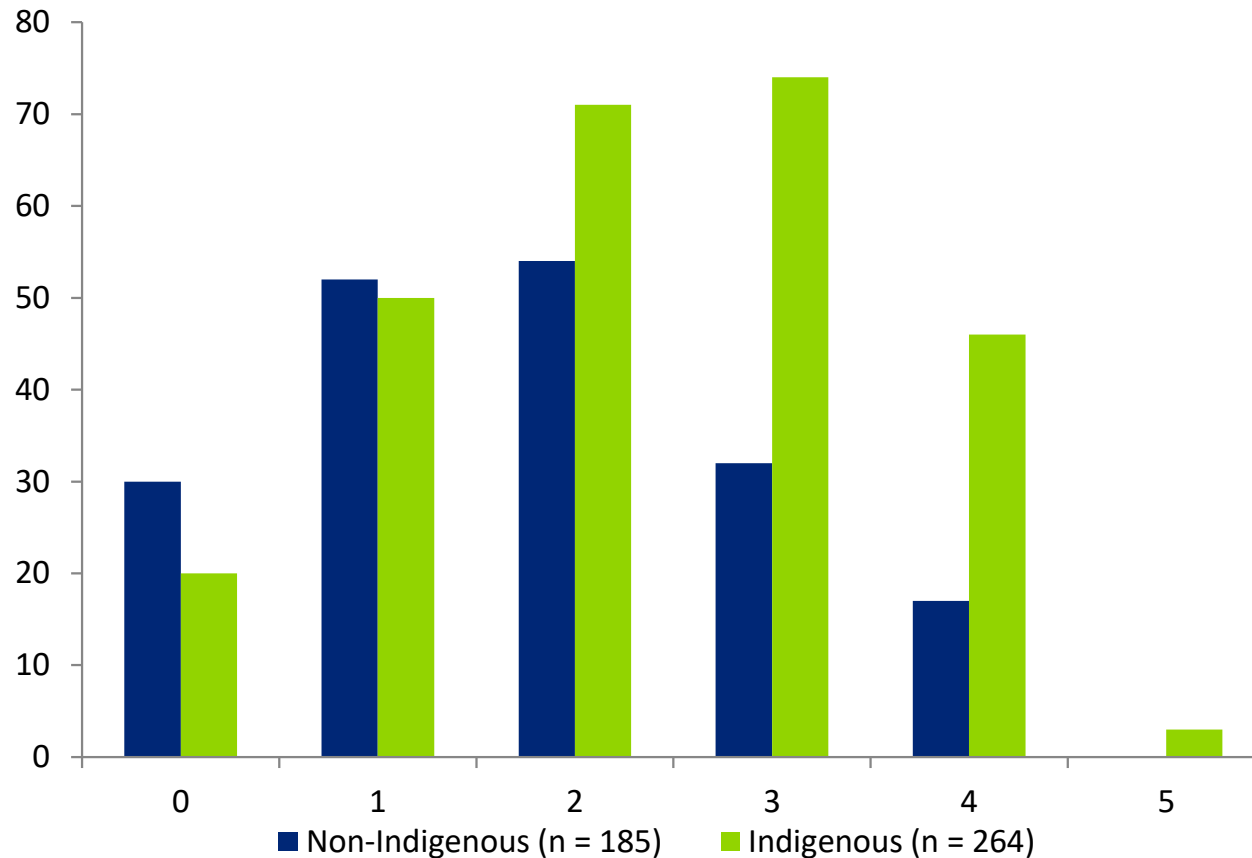
Many Rivers has collected data on 454 clients, of which:

- 59% are unable to access financial institutions
- 55% have an educational attainment of Year 10 or less
- 28% are dependent on government social assistance
- 41% own assets of less than \$10,000
- 26% live in Remote areas of Australia

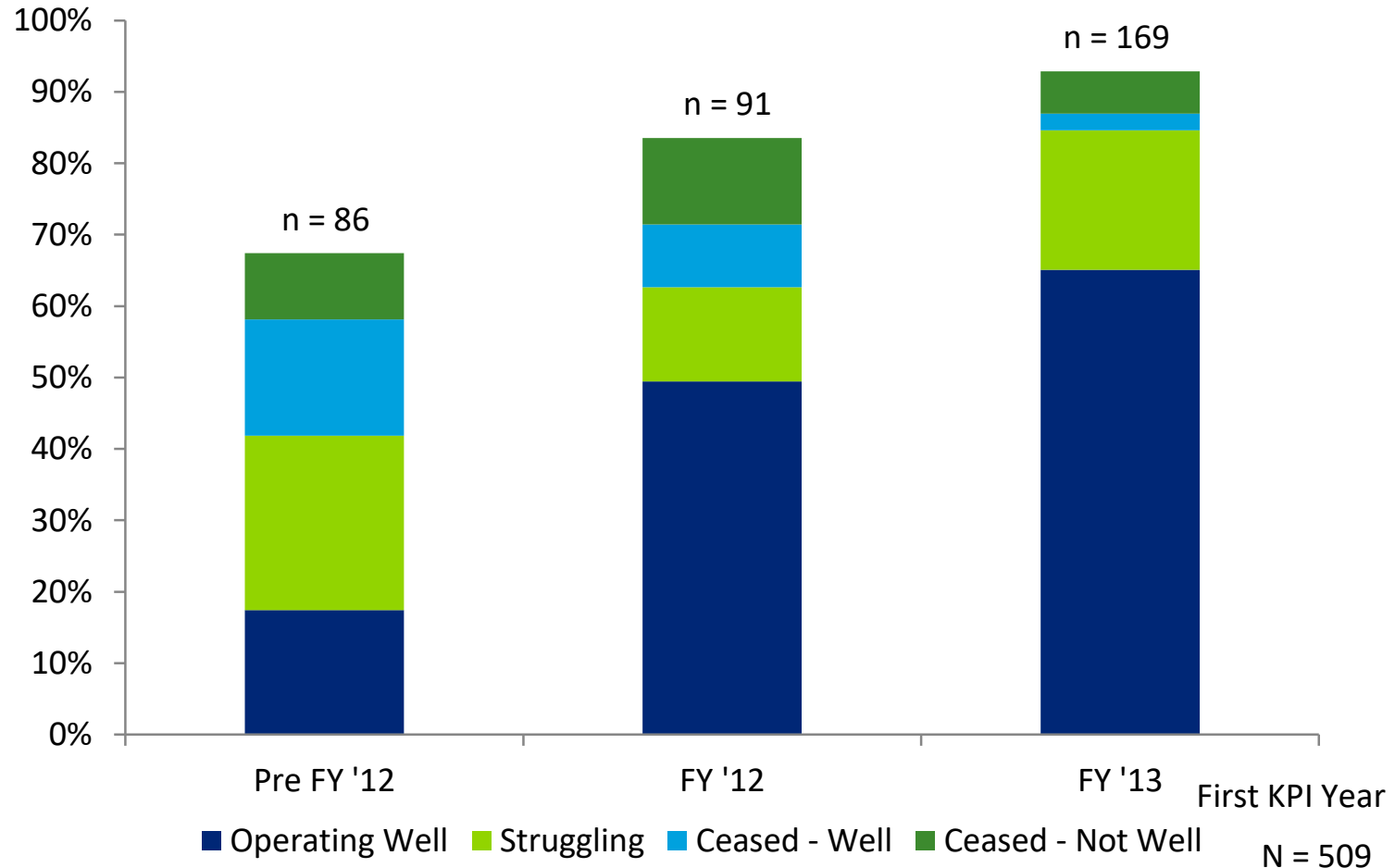


Client Data – Index of Exclusion

Cumulative marker of client social exclusion

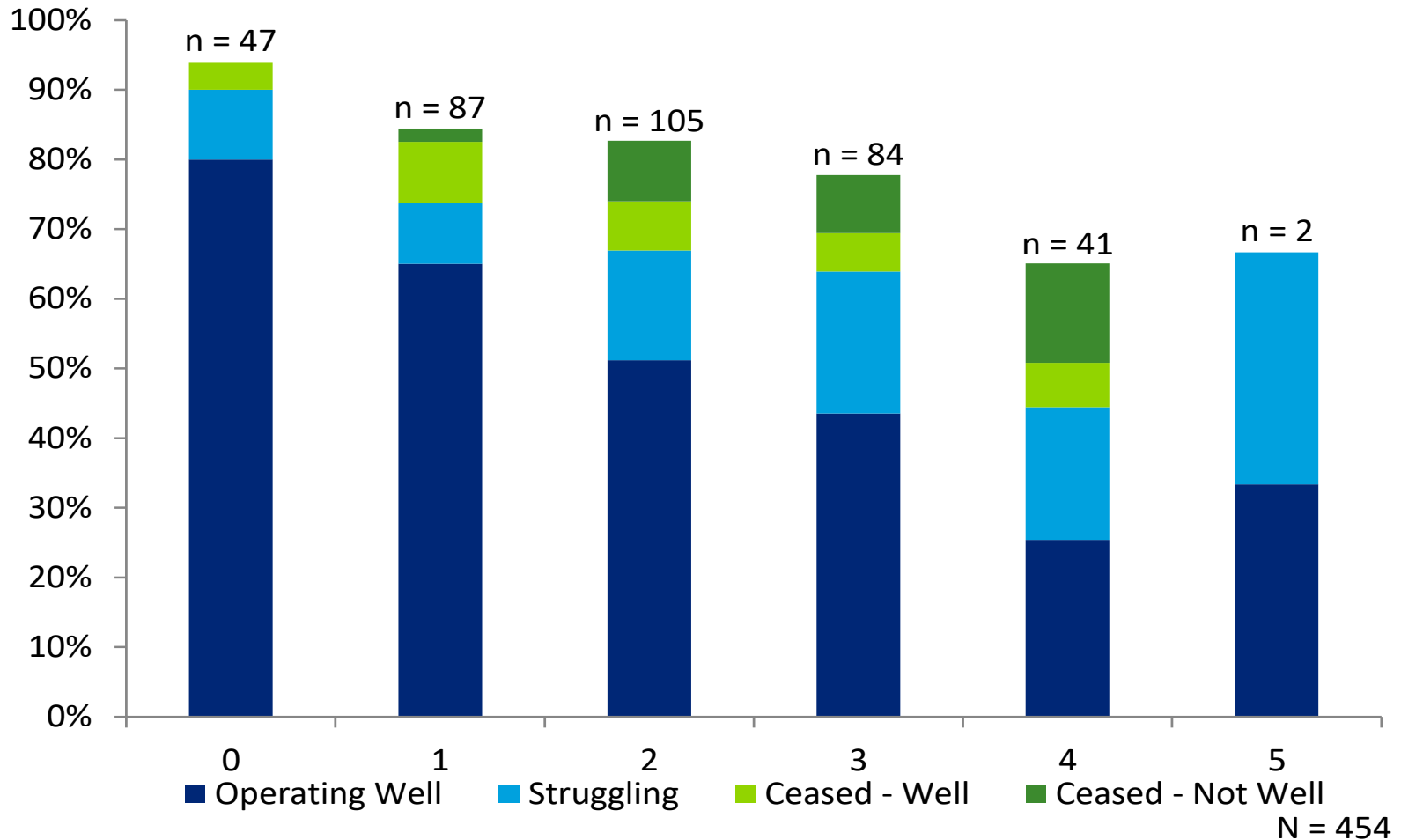


Business Data – Longevity and Performance



Business / Client Data – Status and Exclusion Index

- 88% of most disadvantaged starting businesses (4+)
 - 45% currently operating

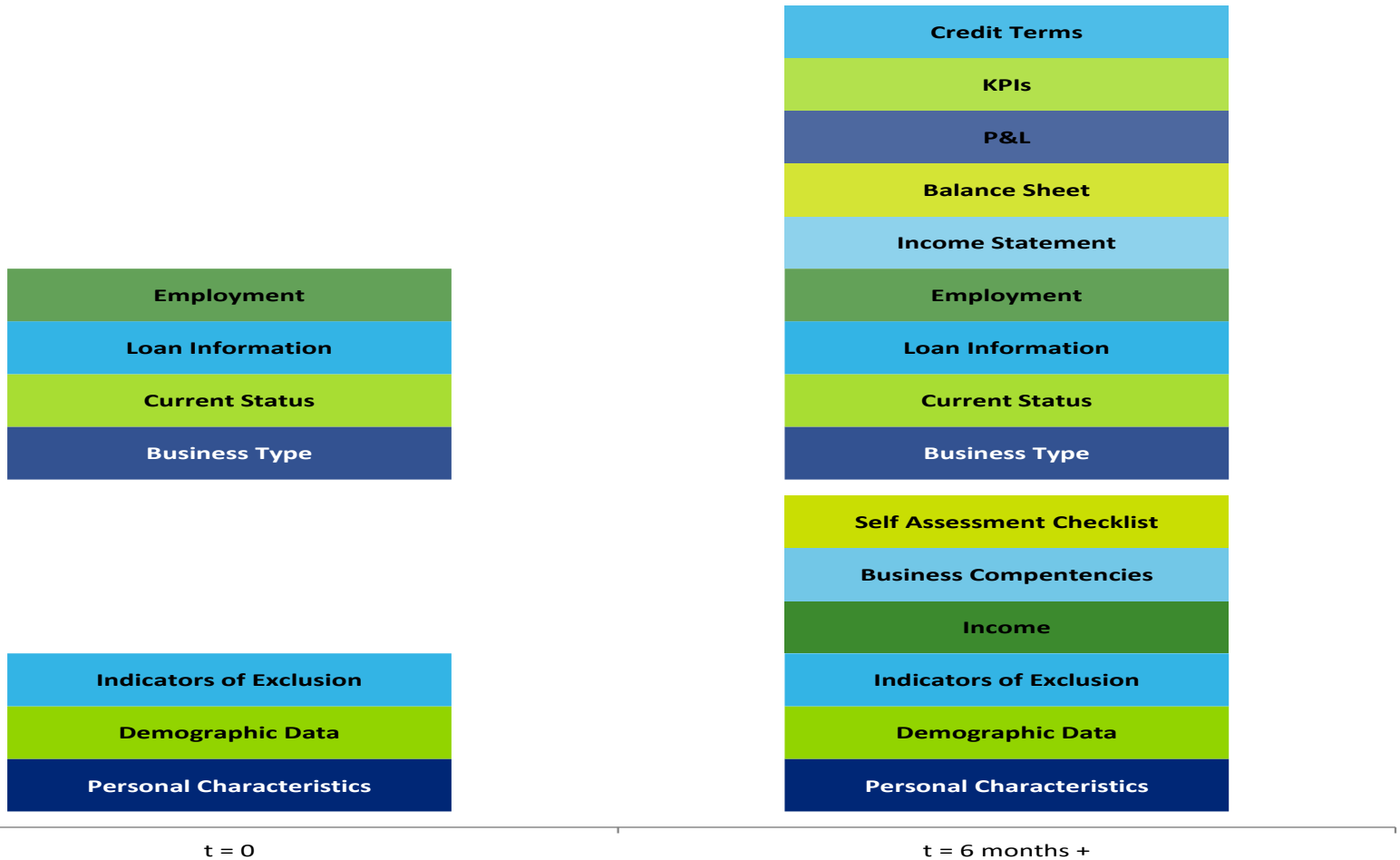


Future evaluation

- As more data becomes available, an increased portion of the 67 indicators and associated evaluation questions will be answered
- Personal situation
- Community effects
- Maybe include a 'tick box' slide which summarises some of the indicators we're measuring now and some which we're measuring later

Future evaluation

- This is what I imagined an illustration of the future capabilities of the MR data collection would look like ...





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