

# Estimation

## □ What is it

- Agile estimation practices are typically used to plan sprints, which are short, time-boxed periods of work. Estimation may occur during validation and delivery phases of a delivery lifecycle. Some recommendations on this practice include:
- Choose an estimation approach that is aligned with the level of confidence and understanding of the scope of work in question - t-shirt sizing may be a better approach to use during earlier phases of an initiative, with associated lower levels of understanding and greater number of assumptions and unknowns.
- Key guidelines include breaking large items down so that they are easier to grasp and assess, use any historical data as an empirical reference to guide the activity, involve multiple developers knowledgeable in the type of work required, revisit estimates v. effort undertaken and identify aspects that can be improved for the future.

## □□ Key Benefits / Why is this important

- Improving the consistency of estimation can help teams to plan and manage their work capacity more effectively
- Ensures stakeholders and the team have a higher degree of confidence when making decisions
- Builds confidence within the team to better manage their capacity in future sprints

## □□ Techniques supporting this practice

- Planning poker

