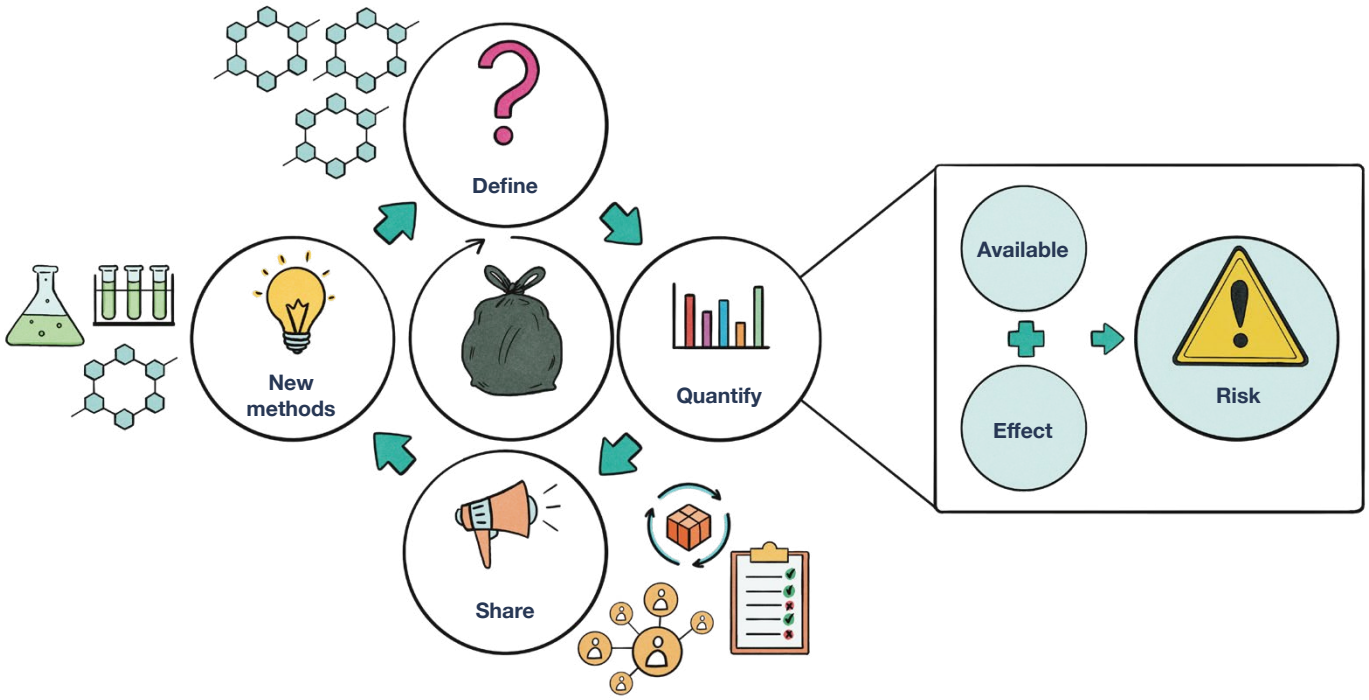
Advancing the safe management of chemicals in the circular economy

Version 1

Achieving a circular economy is dependent on our ability to safely reuse materials that would otherwise be classed as waste.

Identifying the types or masses of chemicals in products and waste materials is a key gap in enabling Australia's chemical economy. The fate of these chemicals at end-of-life in waste management pathways or during secondary reuse via resource recovery or recycling is also poorly understood.



Research is underway to develop an iterative approach to understand and define risks of chemicals in wastes by defining, quantifying, sharing data and information, and developing new methods to assess chemical availability and effect.

Wastes, recovered resources, and products containing recycled content are chemically complex. With the growing interest in material recovery and reuse, there is a need to quantify the potential hazards that chemicals can pose to ensure safe waste reuse and achieve circular economy aspirations.

The information and data generated in the research program will assist with evidence-based decision-making regarding the reuse of materials that may contain chemicals of potential concern.

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