Elephant Welfare Project

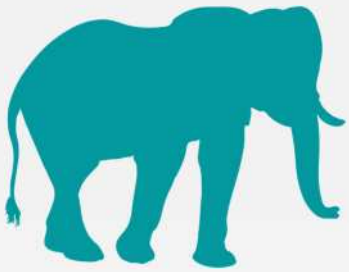
Elephant Behavioural Welfare Tool
Android App Instructions

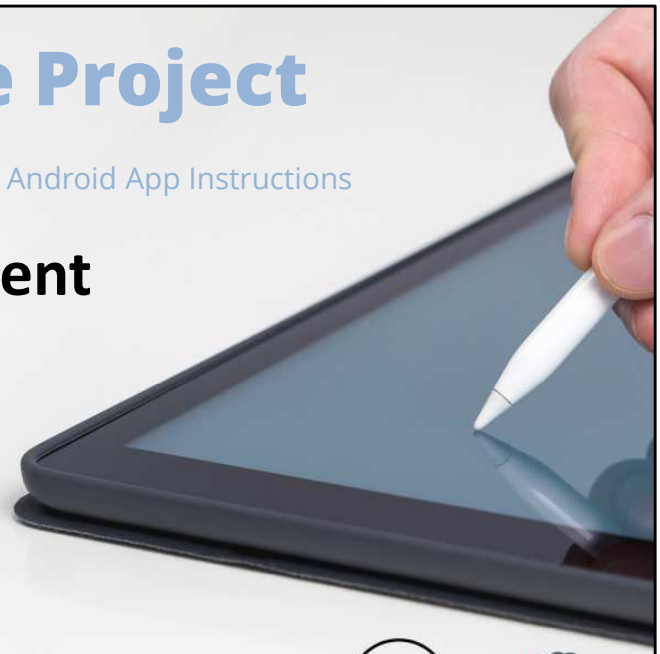
www.elephantwelfareproject.org

Elephant Welfare Project

Elephant Behavioural Welfare Assessment Tool Android App Instructions

Completing an assessment





Now that you've registered your assessors and your elephants on the app, we'll go through how to complete an assessment for one of your elephants

Section A -

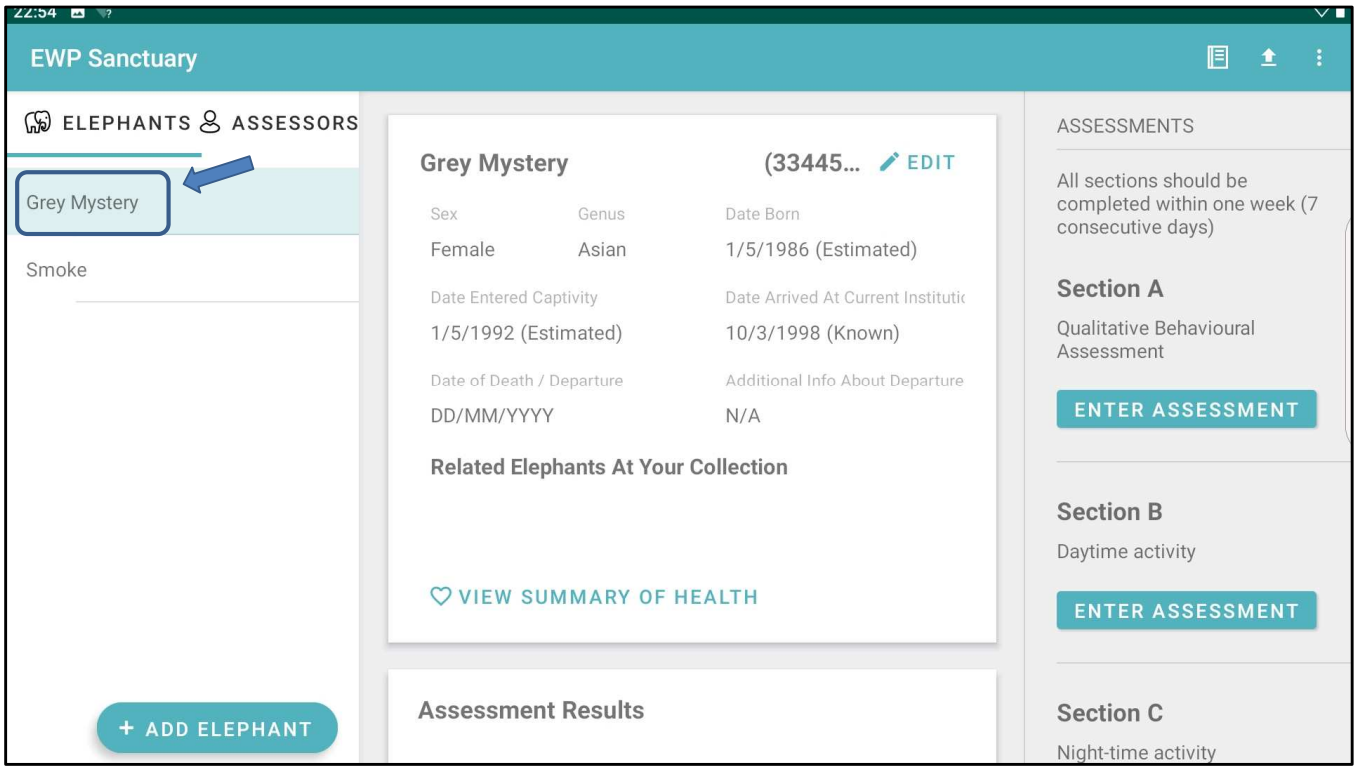
Qualitative Behaviour Assessment (QBA)

Complete these in one day

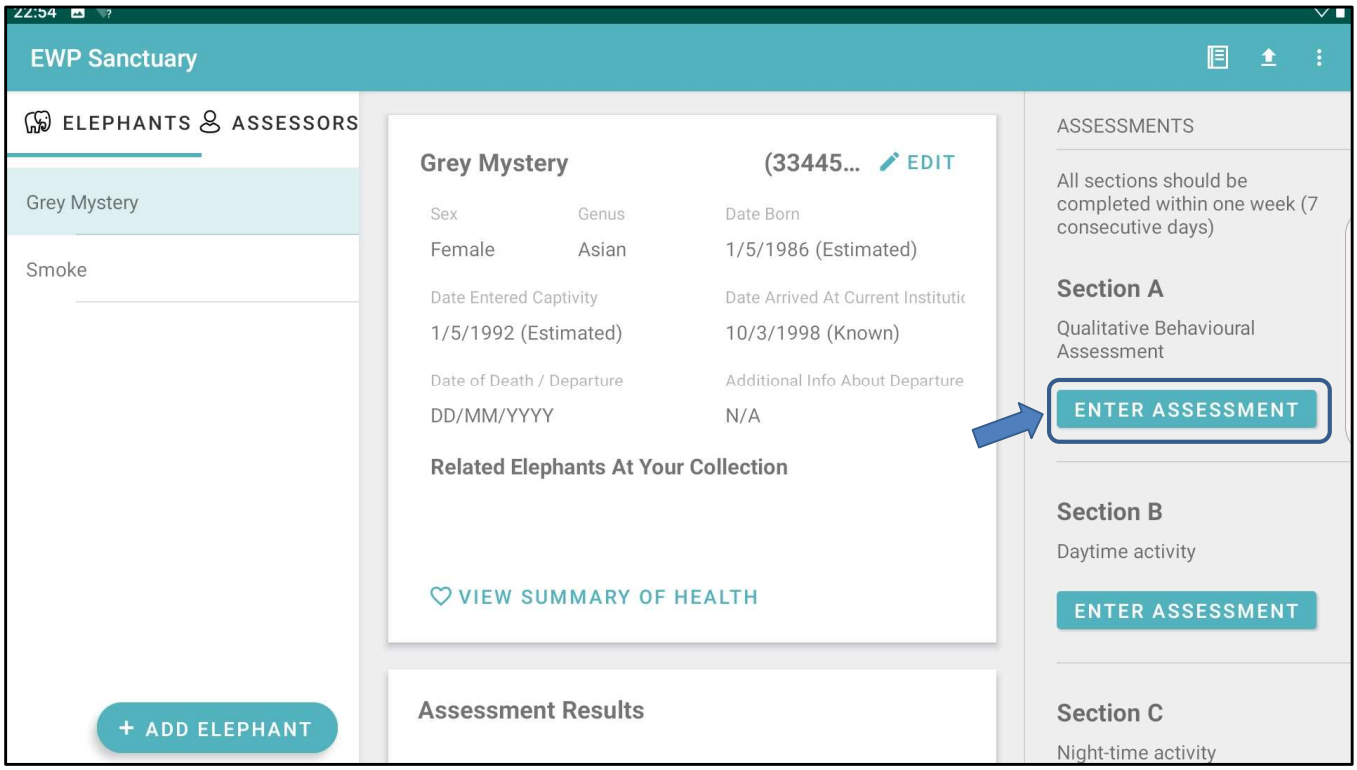
Four observations, spread across the day, between:

9:00 – 11:00 (9am-11am)
11:00 – 13:00 (11am-1pm)
13:00 – 15:00 (1pm-3pm)
15:00 – 17:00 (3pm-5pm)

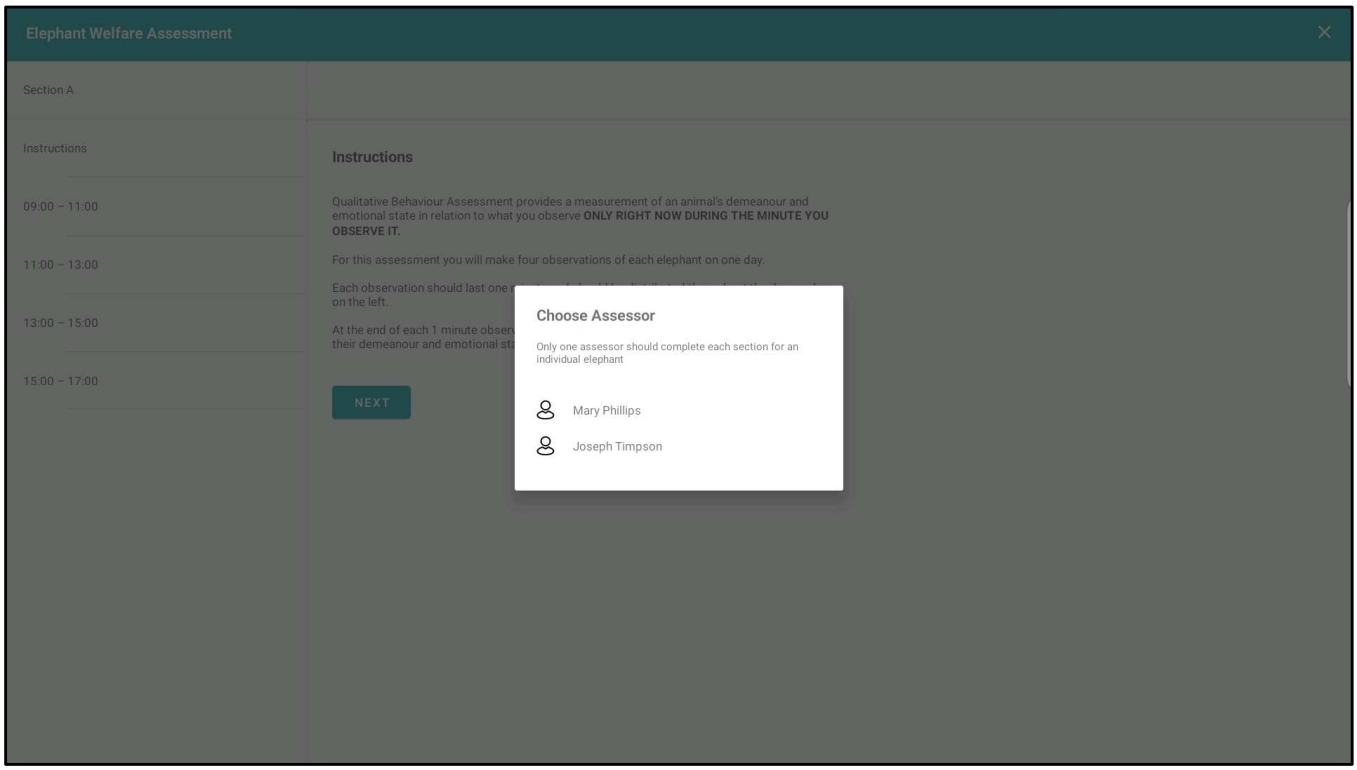
Section A, Qualitative Behavioural Assessment. You'll complete this section in one day, making four observations spread across the day, with one observation between 9-11am, one 11am-1pm, one made between 1 and 3pm, and one observation between 3 and 5pm



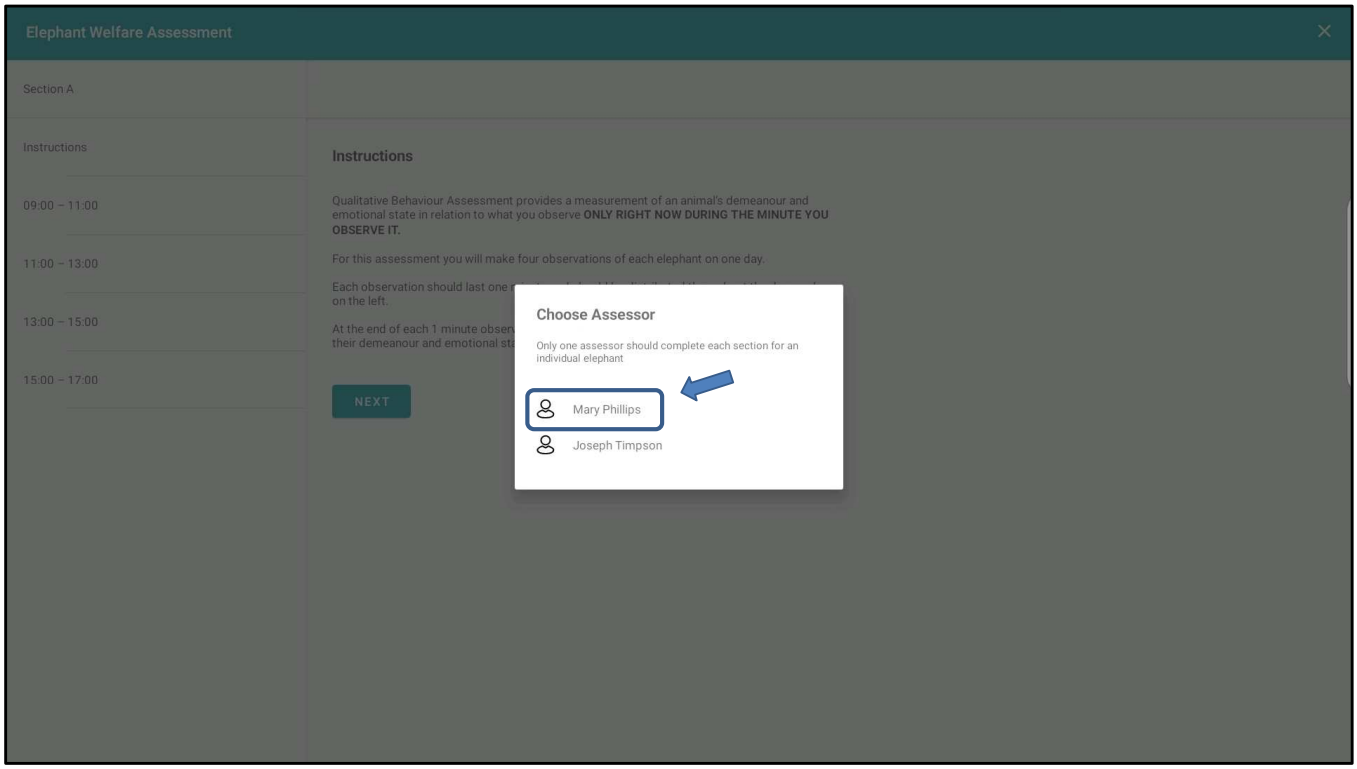
To begin an assessment, first select the elephant you'll be observing



AND then select ‘enter assessment’ under Section A - Qualitative Behaviour Assessment.



You will then see a popup screen listing all of the assessors you have registered at your facility

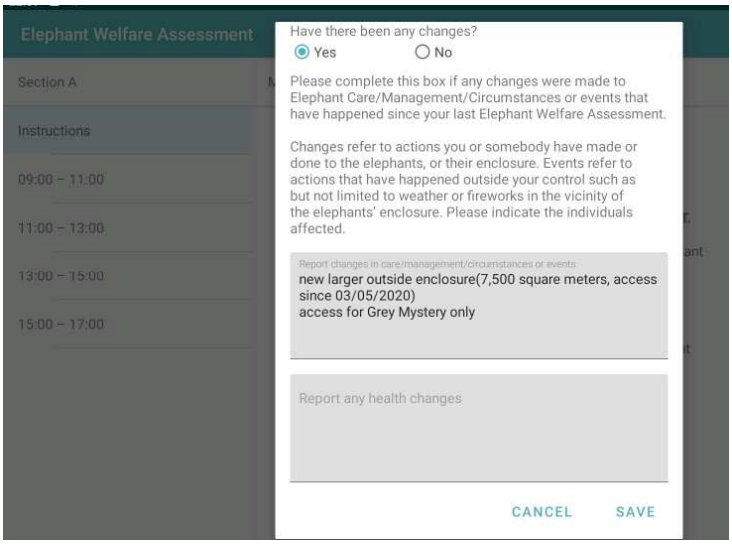


Click on the name of the person doing the current assessment

Reporting Changes

- Elephant's health
- Management or training
- Change in elephants (birth, death,movement)
- Facilities (e.g. new enclosure)
- Anything else

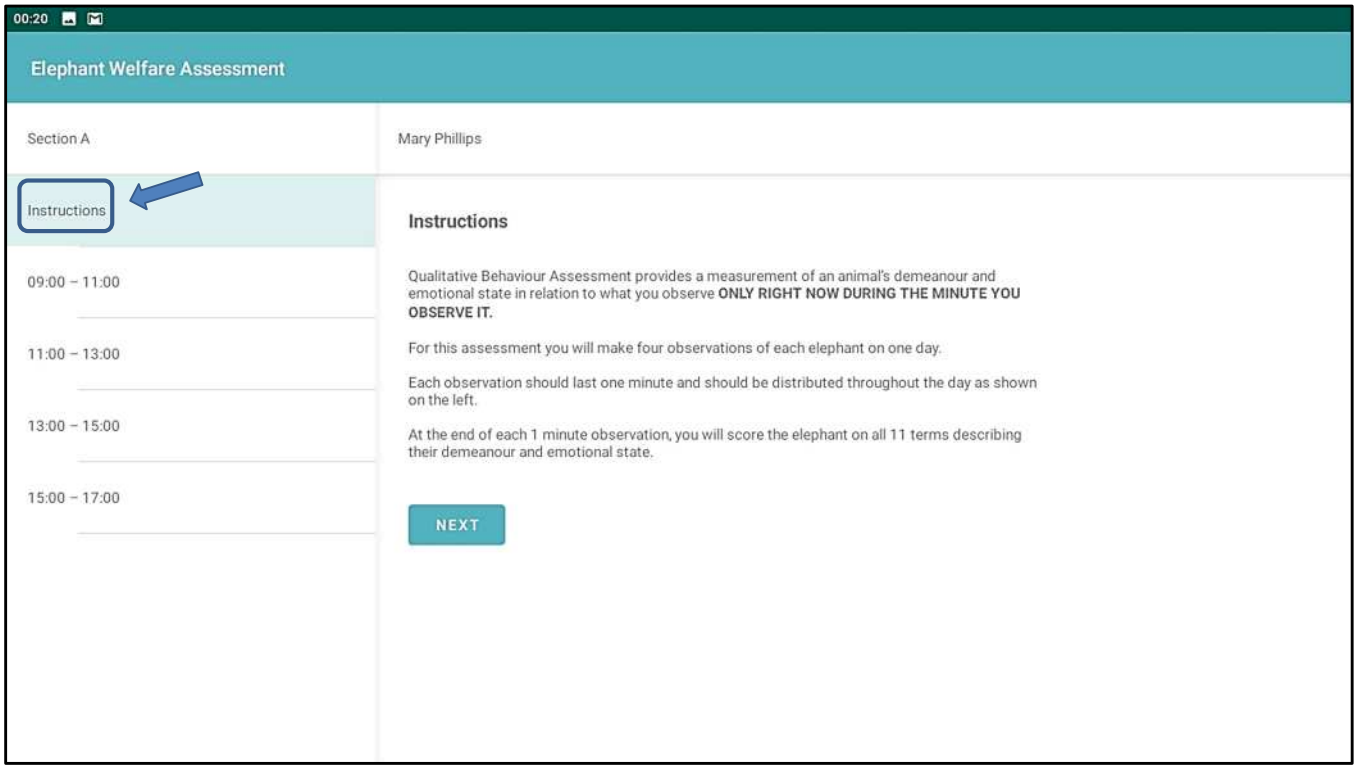
Include date when first happened



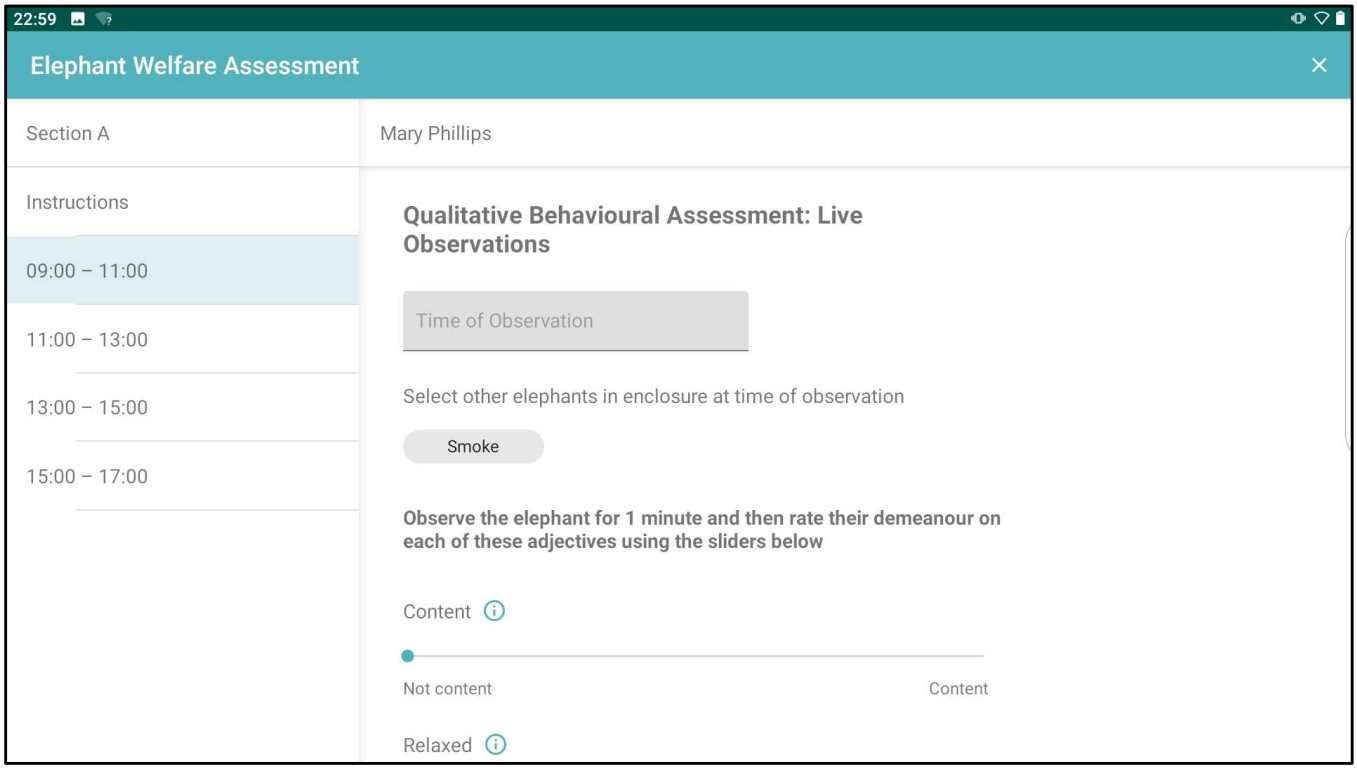
Next you will get a popup screen asking if there have been any changes to that elephant's health, any changes in how you manage that elephant, changes in the other elephants at your facility (such as a birth or death, or an elephant leaving or a new one arriving at your facility, or any changes to the facility itself, such as a newly built enclosure.

You should use this section to mention anything that has happened which you think might have affected your elephants' welfare. Give as much information as possible about what the change

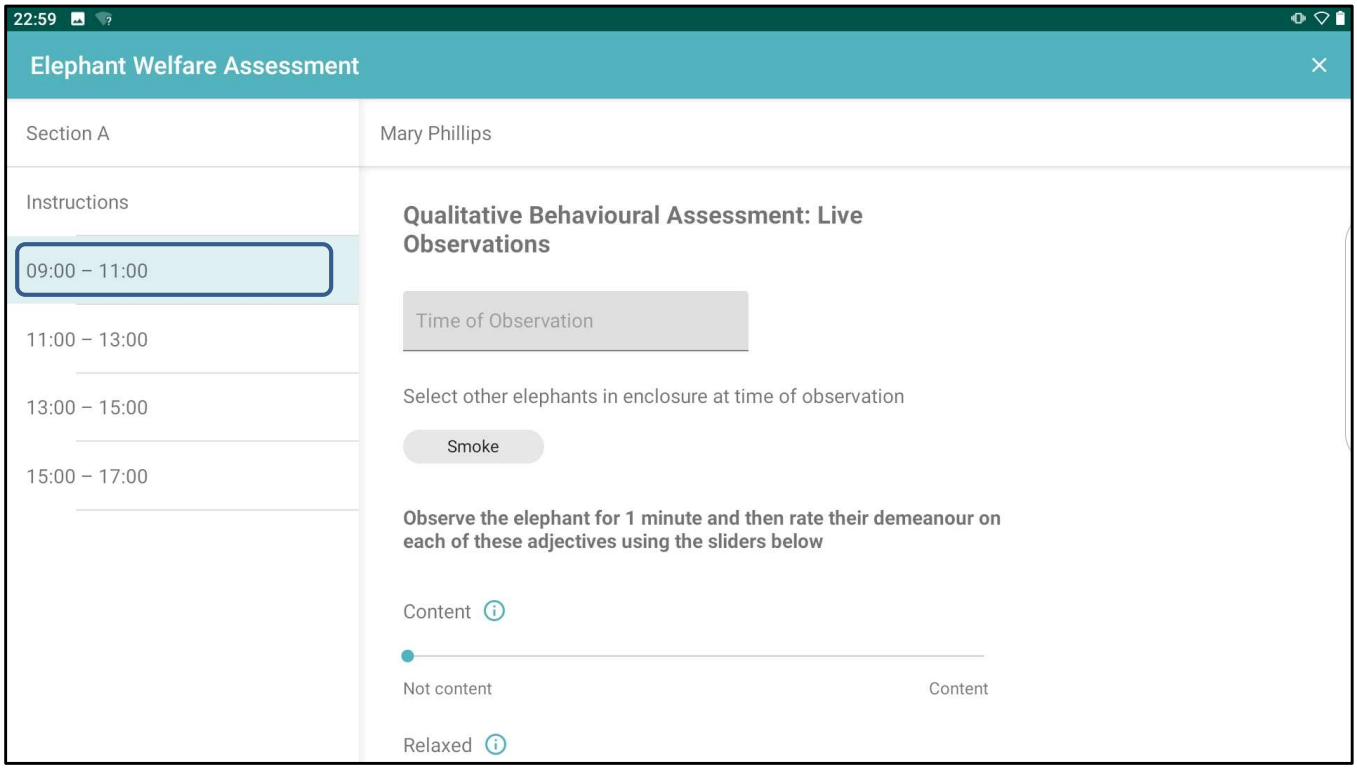
was, and make sure you include the date when it first happened. This is crucial information in order for you to be able to look at the elephant's scores before and after that change happened, so you can see if that change may have affected that elephant's welfare.



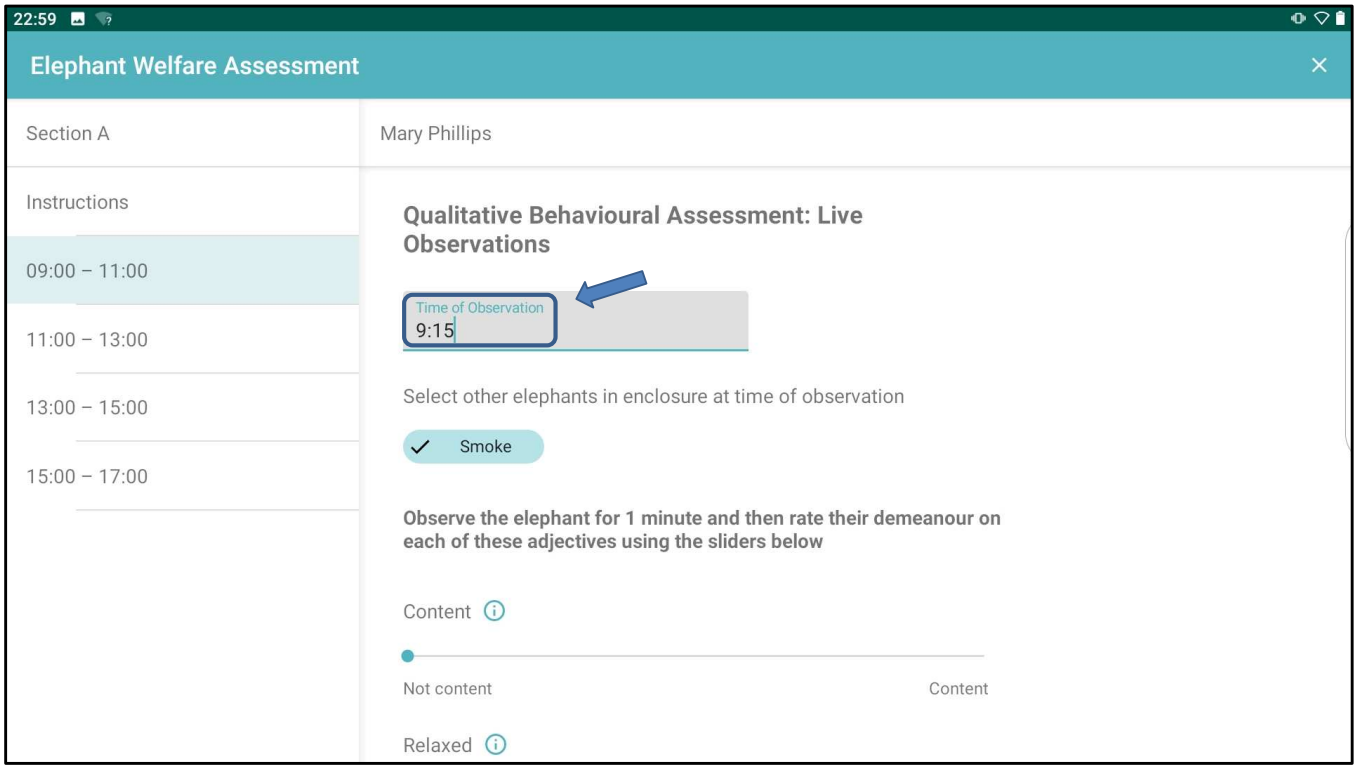
In each of the sections, you will see in the lefthand panel, the first item you can click on is 'instructions'. This will give you a short summary of how to complete that section of the tool. If you need more detail, you can refer to the app handbook, which you can view either on your tablet, or online at the EWP website, (www.elephantwelfareproject.org)



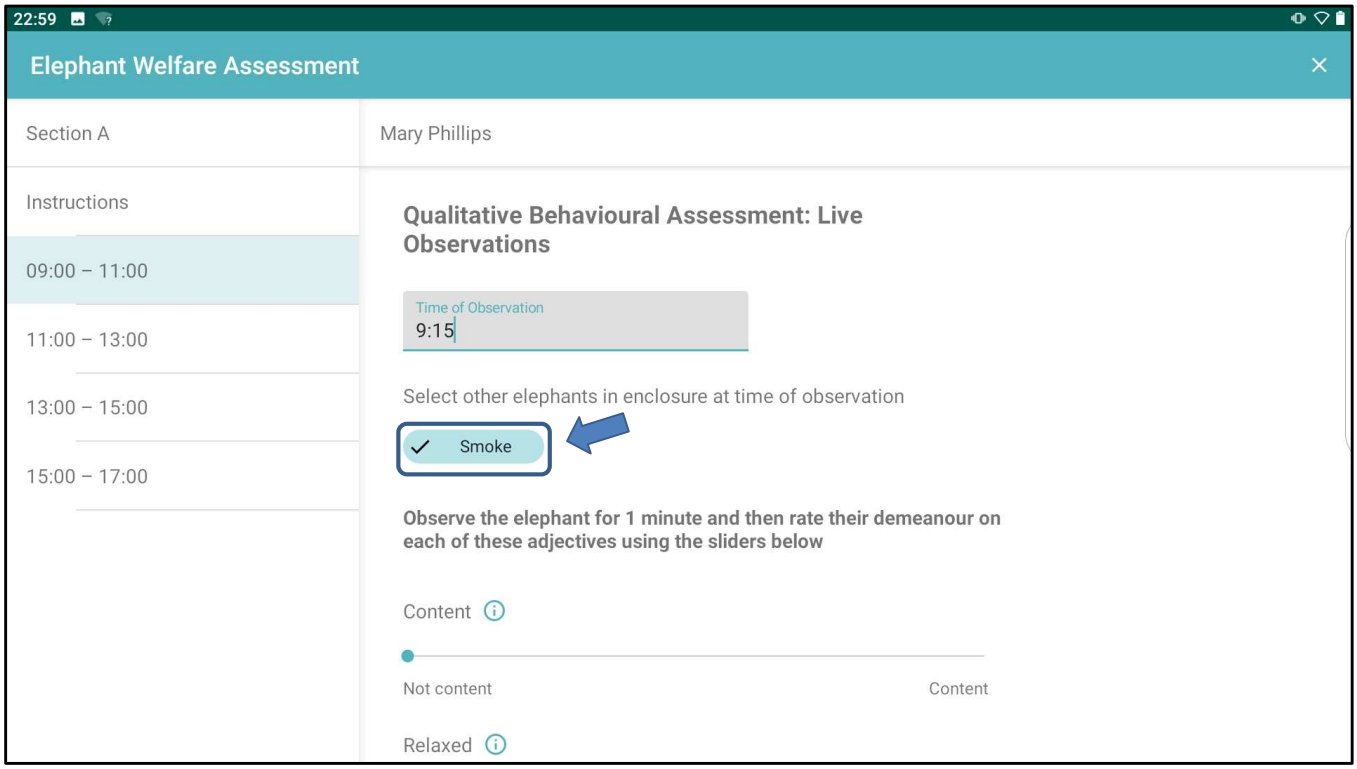
Within Section A, from the options in the left hand pane, click on the correct 2 hour block of time when you are making your observation



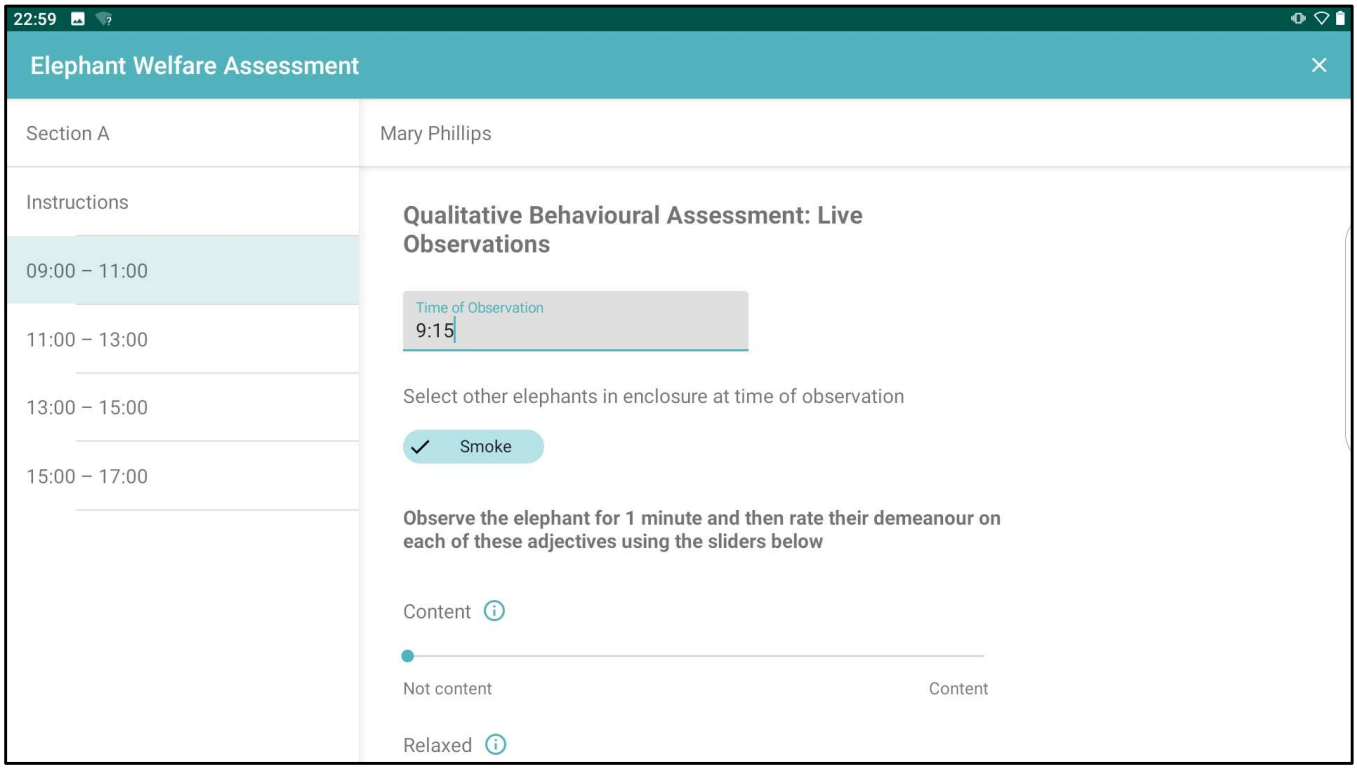
You must make your first observation between 9 and 11am, so click on that time slot to begin



Once you have selected your time period of observation from the left hand side, then enter the exact time you are observing your elephant in the top box in the main section of the screen

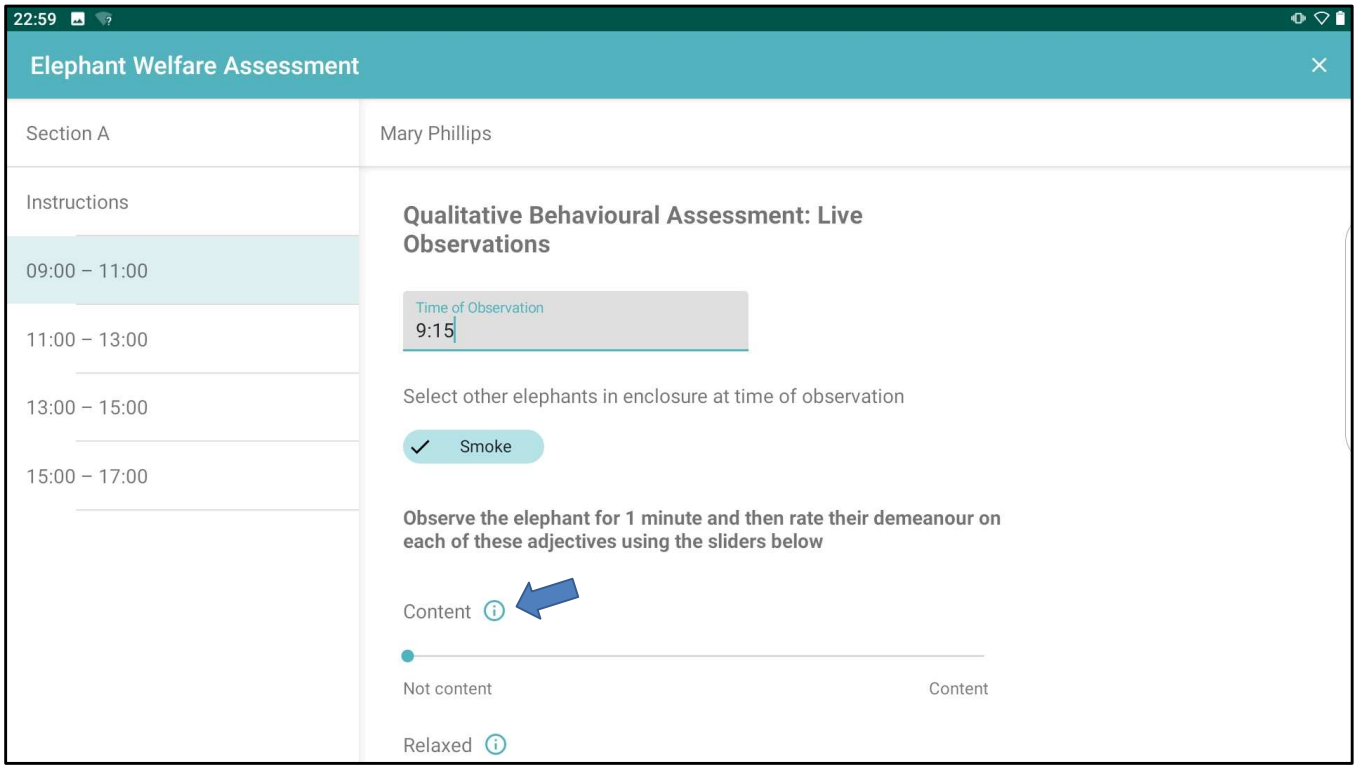


Once you have done this, you will see a list of the names of the other elephants at your facility. click on their names to select any of your other elephants that are in the same enclosure as the elephant you are observing.

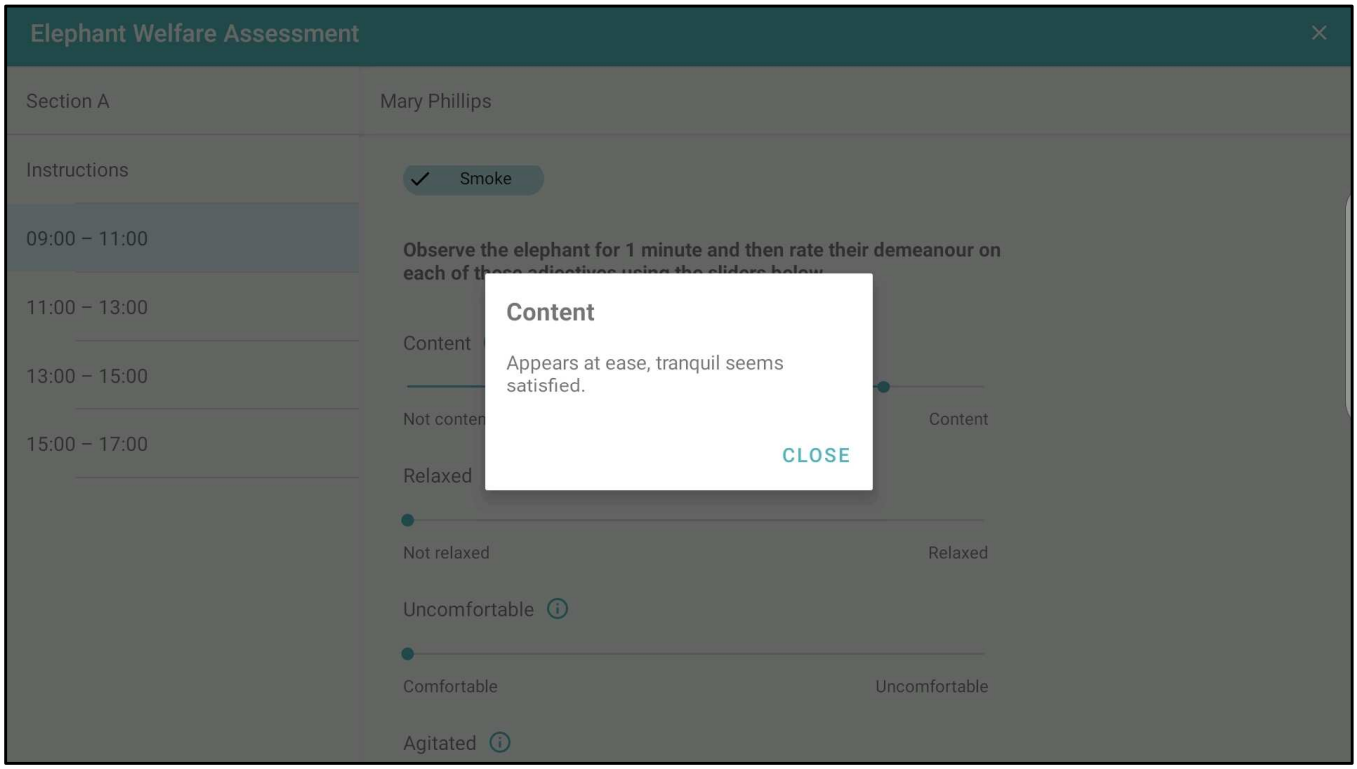


Each time you observe your elephant for this part of the tool, you will observe them for one minute

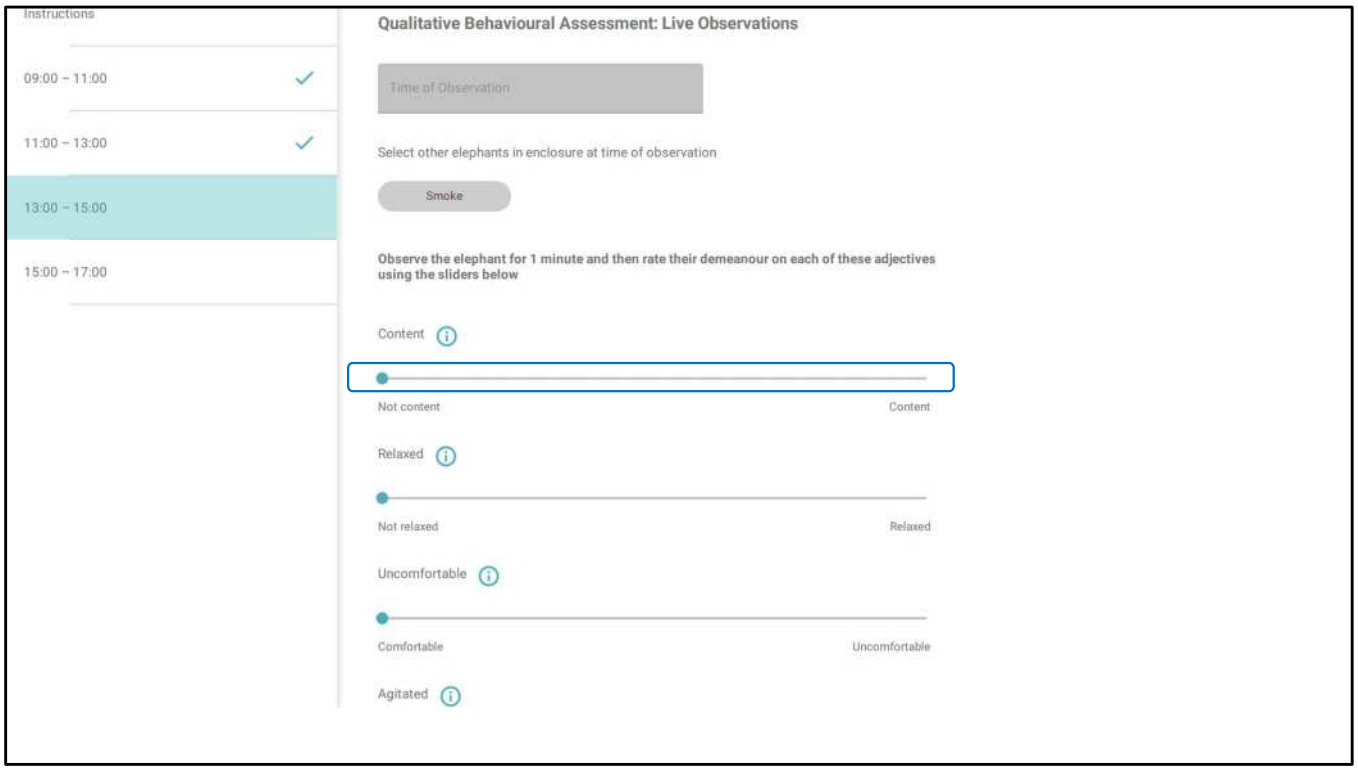
You are going to be rating how you think the elephant was feeling, based on their body language. For each of the adjectives listed, you'll need to decide how much you think that adjective applies to your elephant's demeanour, during the minute that you just observed them



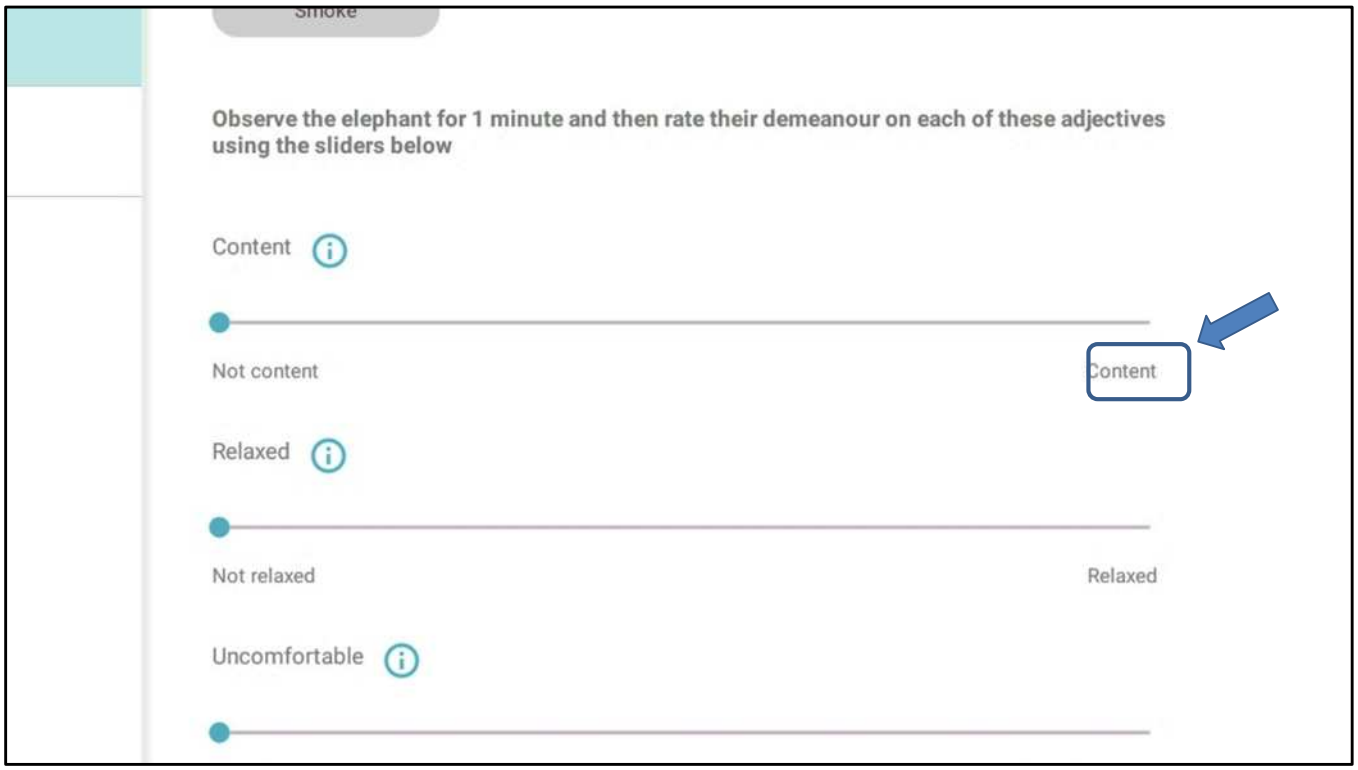
You will see a list of adjectives in the middle pane with a line below each of them. you can click on the 'I' next to each of the adjectives, to see how we are defining each term



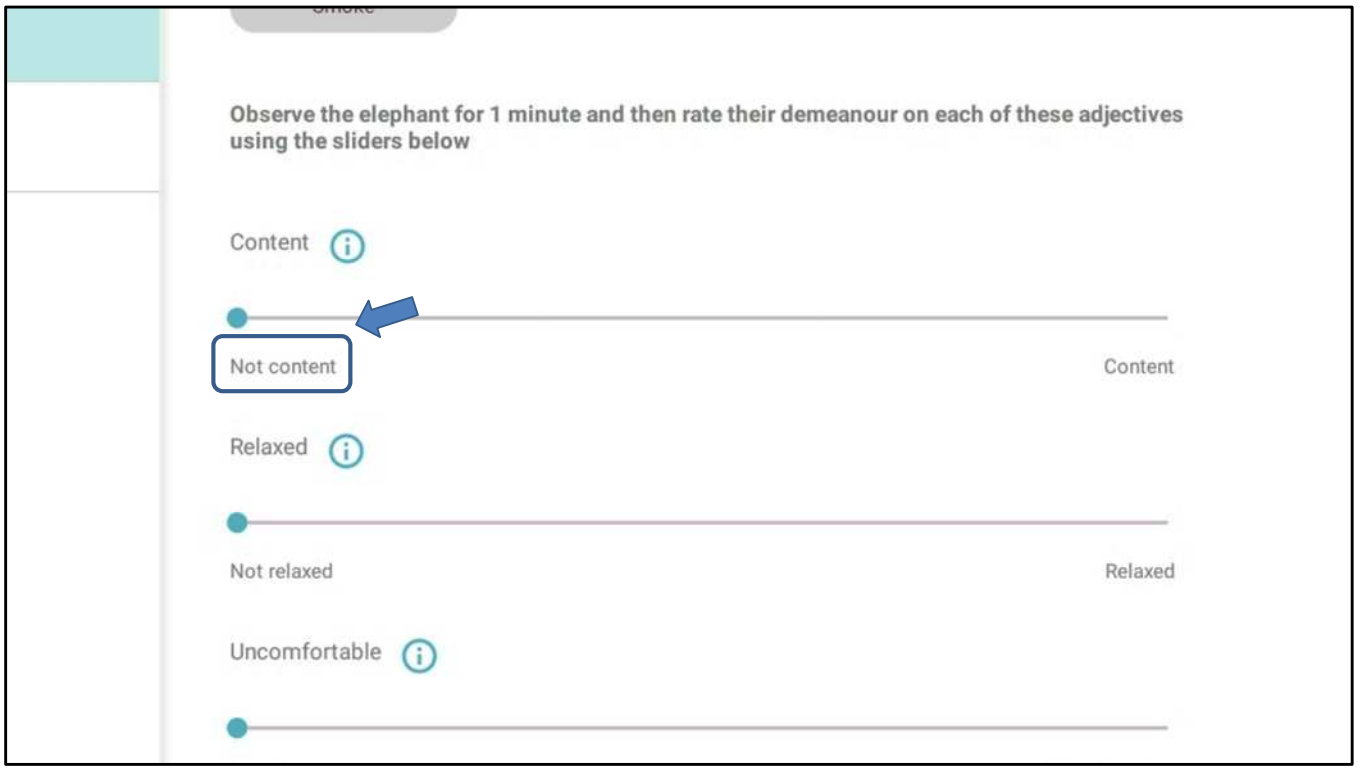
If you click on the ‘I’, you’ll then see a popup box with our definition of that term; for example, here you can see how we have defined the term ‘content’, in this assessment



When you are rating your elephant's demeanour, you will see a line below each of the adjectives, with descriptions at the right and left ends of the line, to indicate what kind of demeanour is at the lowest and highest ends of the scale.

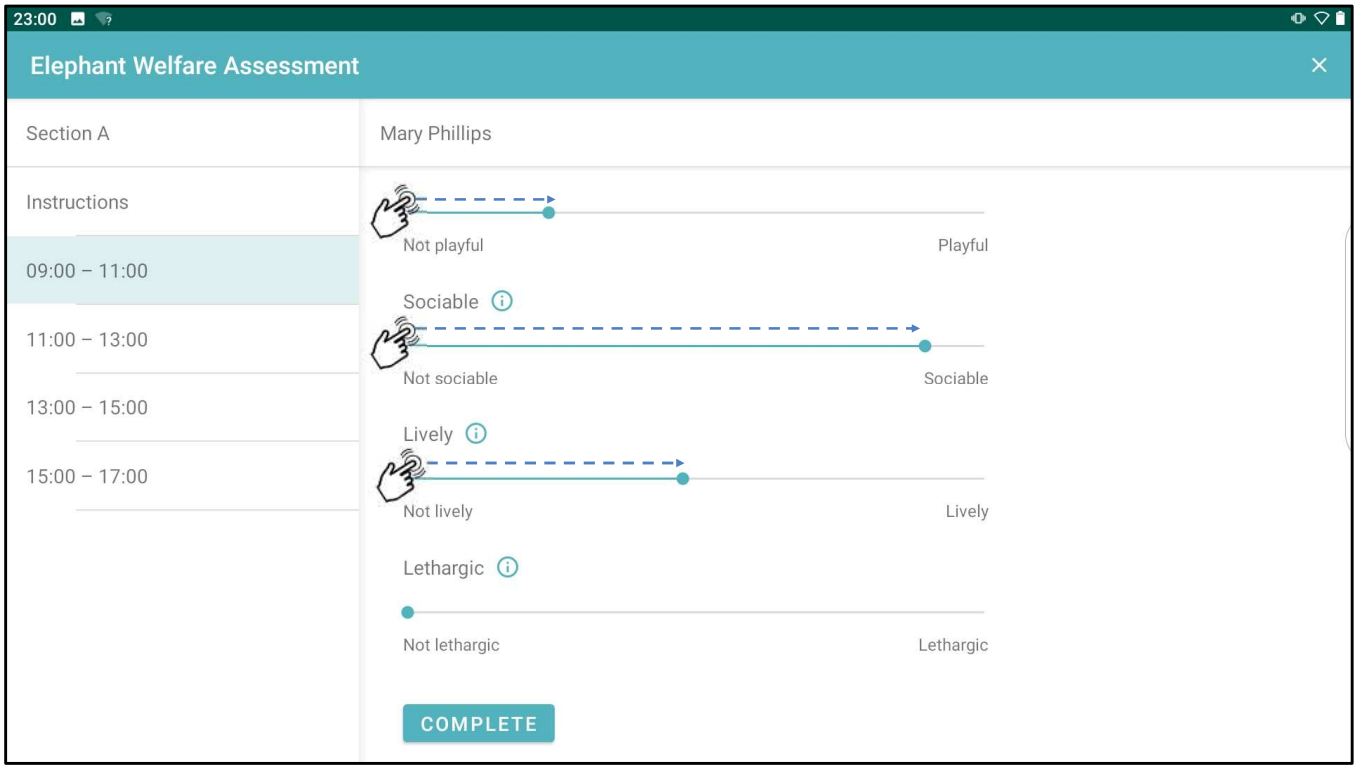


So for ‘content’, at the righthand end of that scale is ‘content’, to indicate the animal appears completely content

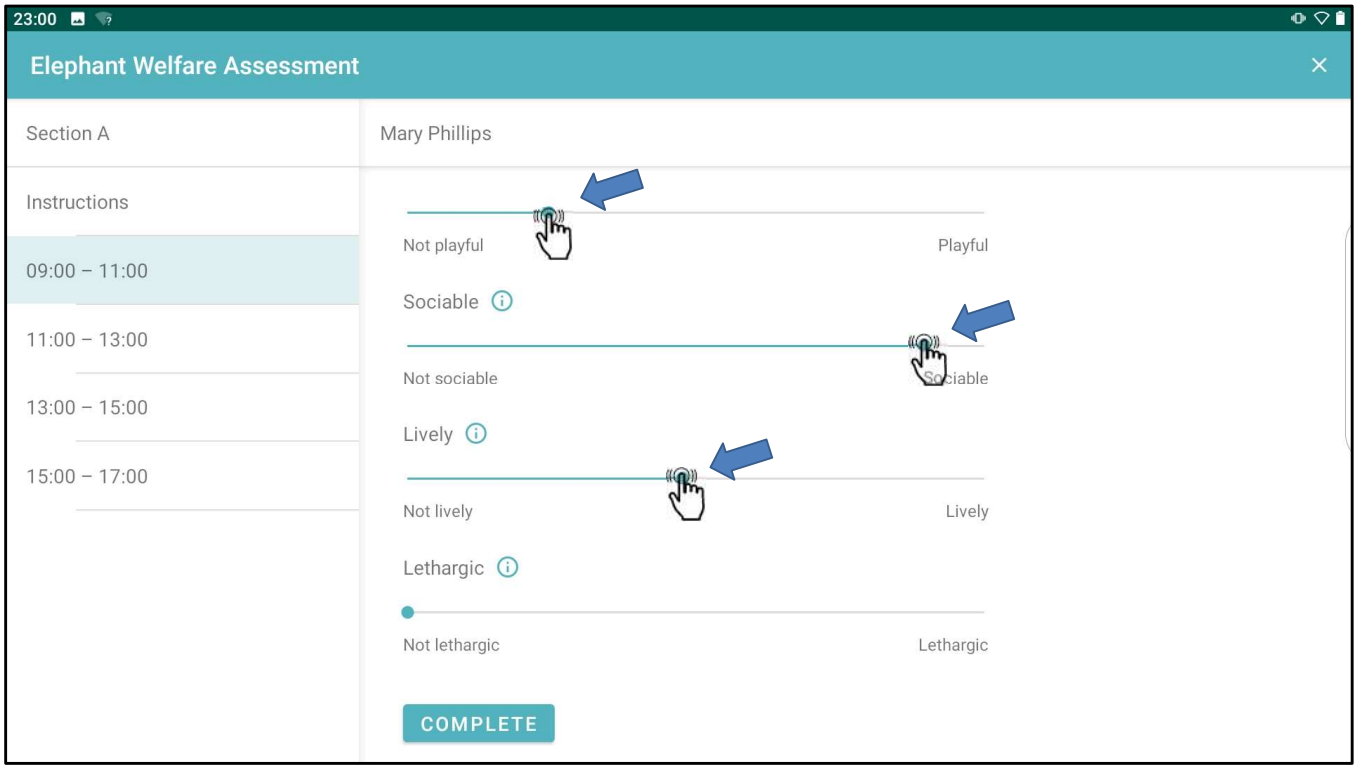


And at the lefthand end of the scale for that term is ‘not content’, meaning the animal appears not content at all. You must decide where on that sliding scale you would rate your elephant for that 1 minute that you just observed them.

You are trying to judge how you think the elephant was <u>feeling</u> at the time - it’s emotional state.

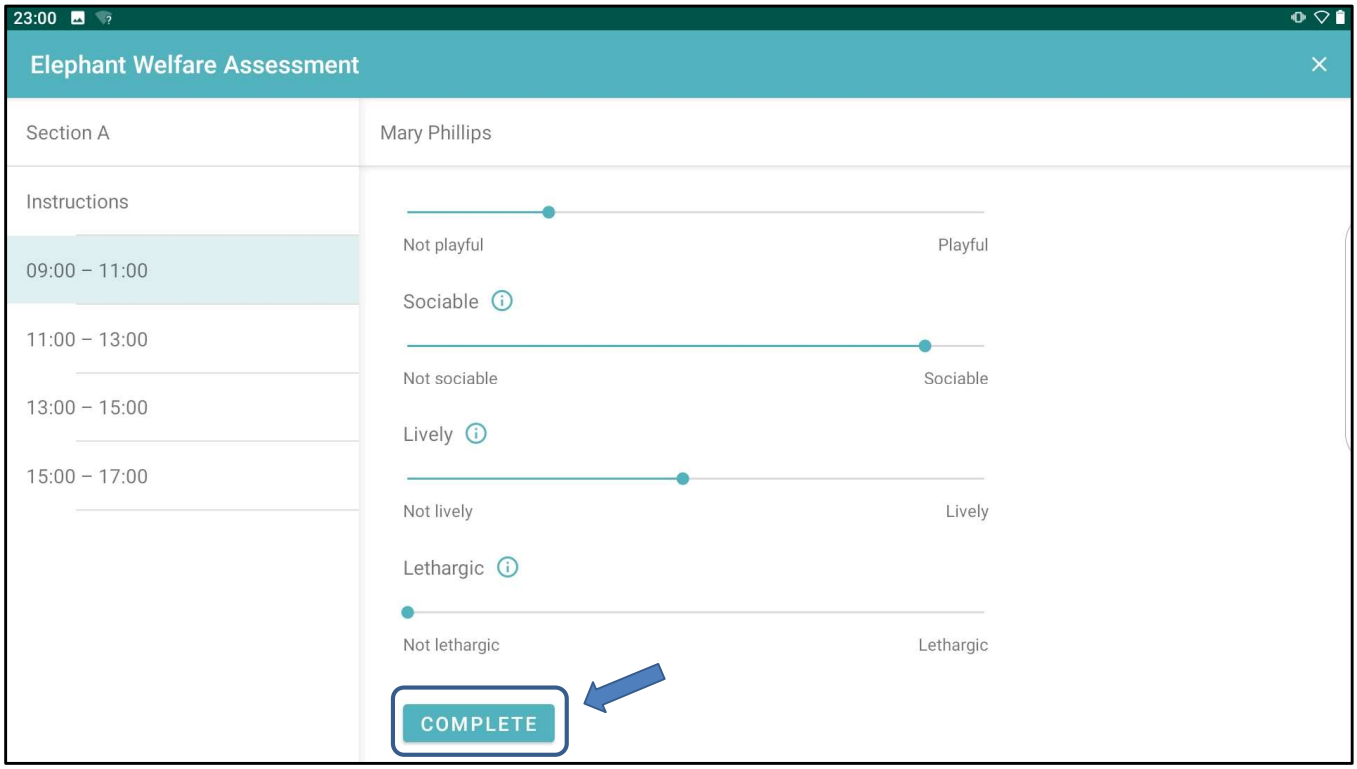


to rate your elephant on the app, you can move the slider underneath each adjective by placing your finger on the dot on the left hand edge of the scale, and dragging it across to the right, until you reach the place on the line that best indicates how much you think that adjective applies to how your elephant was feeling and acting during that minute.

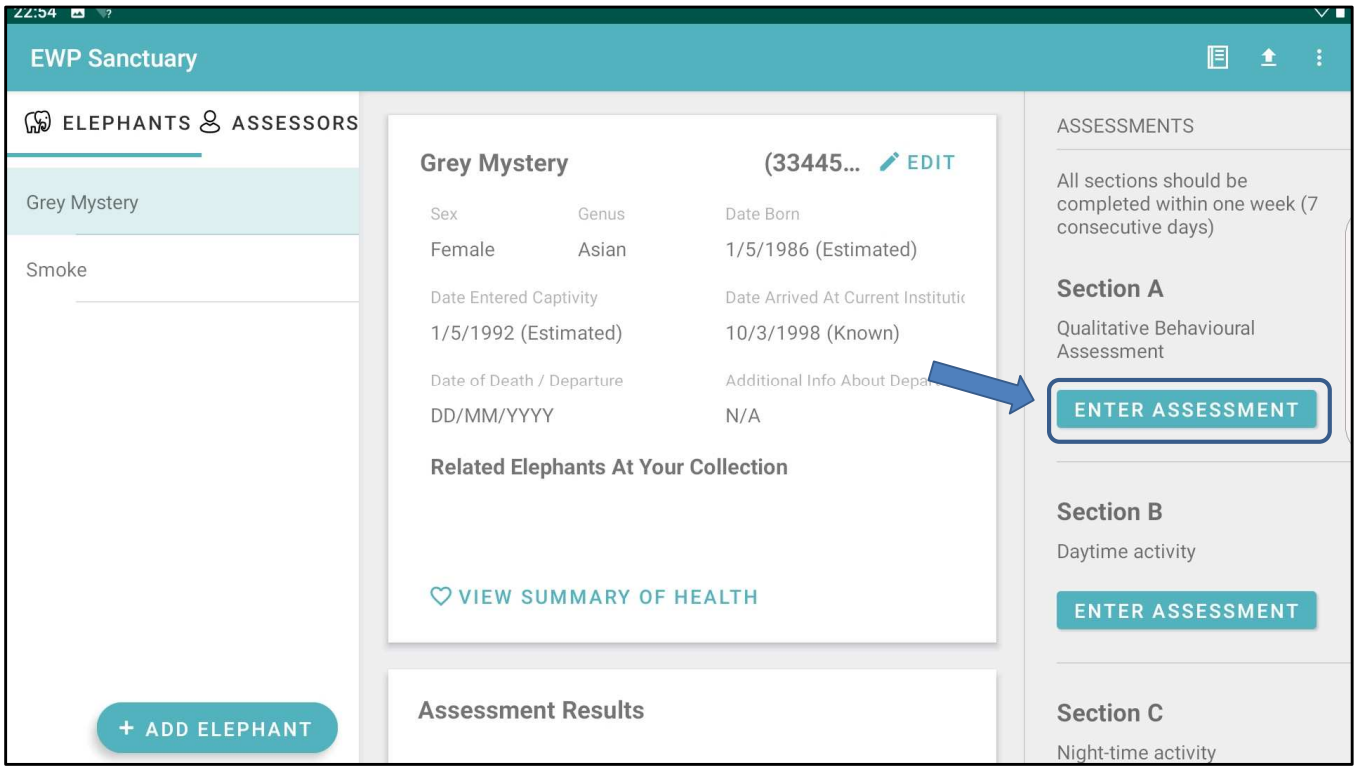


Alternatively, you can just tap on the line, in the spot where you want the slider to be. You are deciding where the elephant's demeanour falls along that line, between the two extreme ends of that scale.

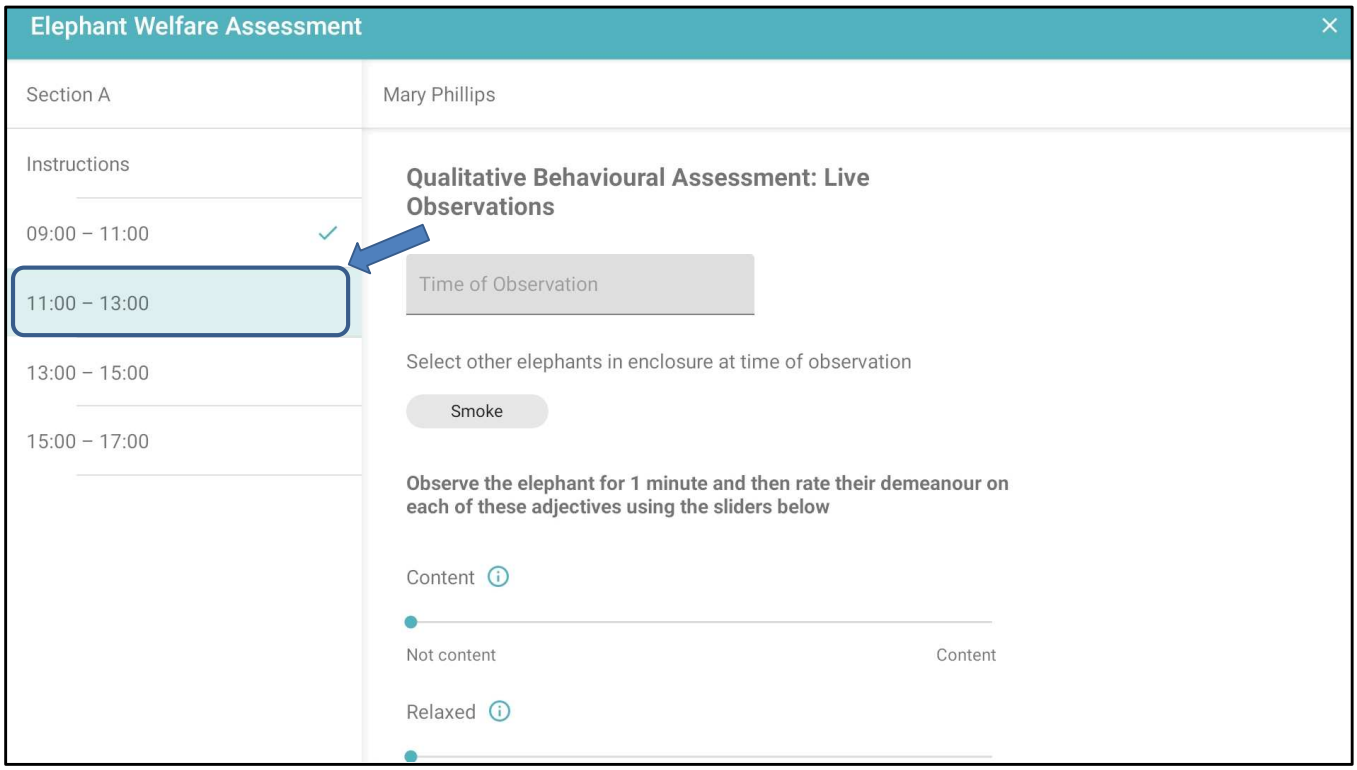
Each time you make a one minute observation, you need to rate your elephant on all of these adjectives.



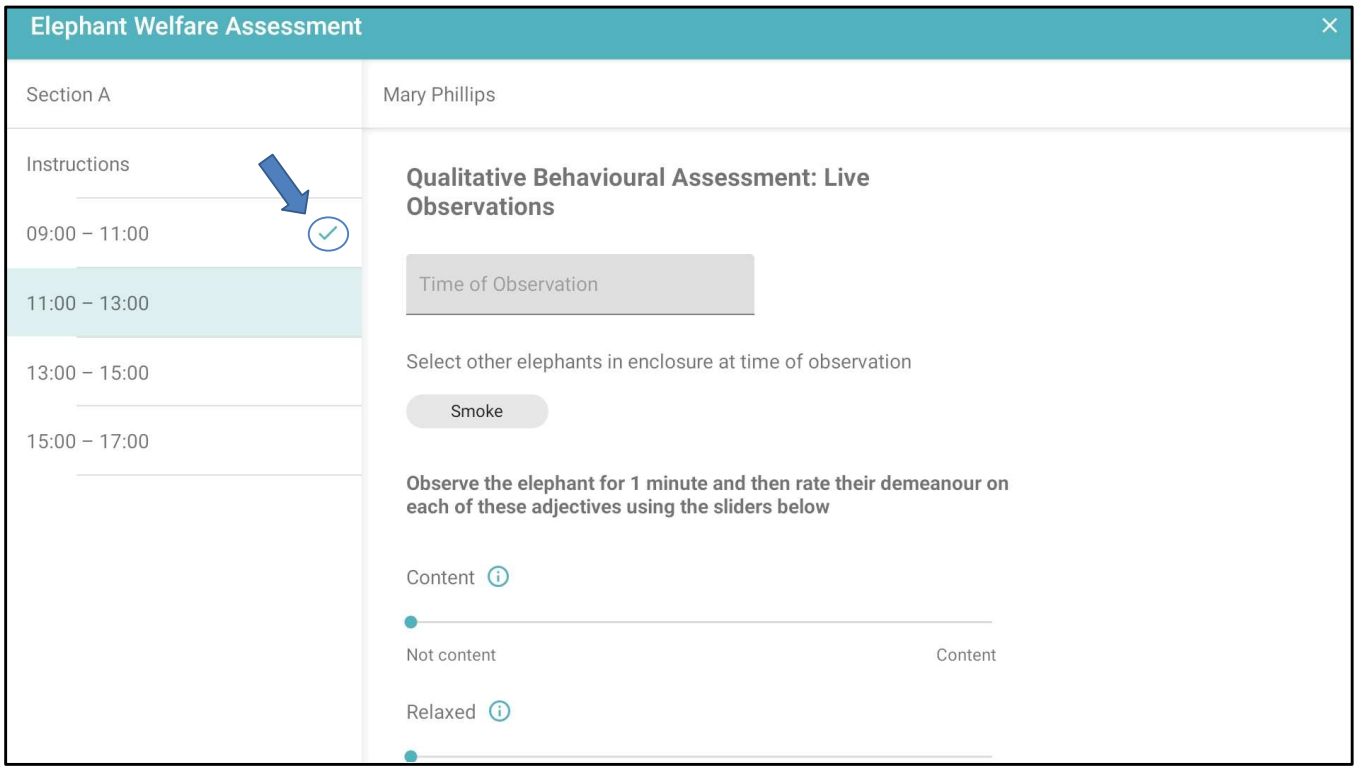
Once you have finished rating your elephant for that observation, click ‘complete’ at the bottom of the screen, to save your ratings for that observation.
The app will then return you to the home screen.



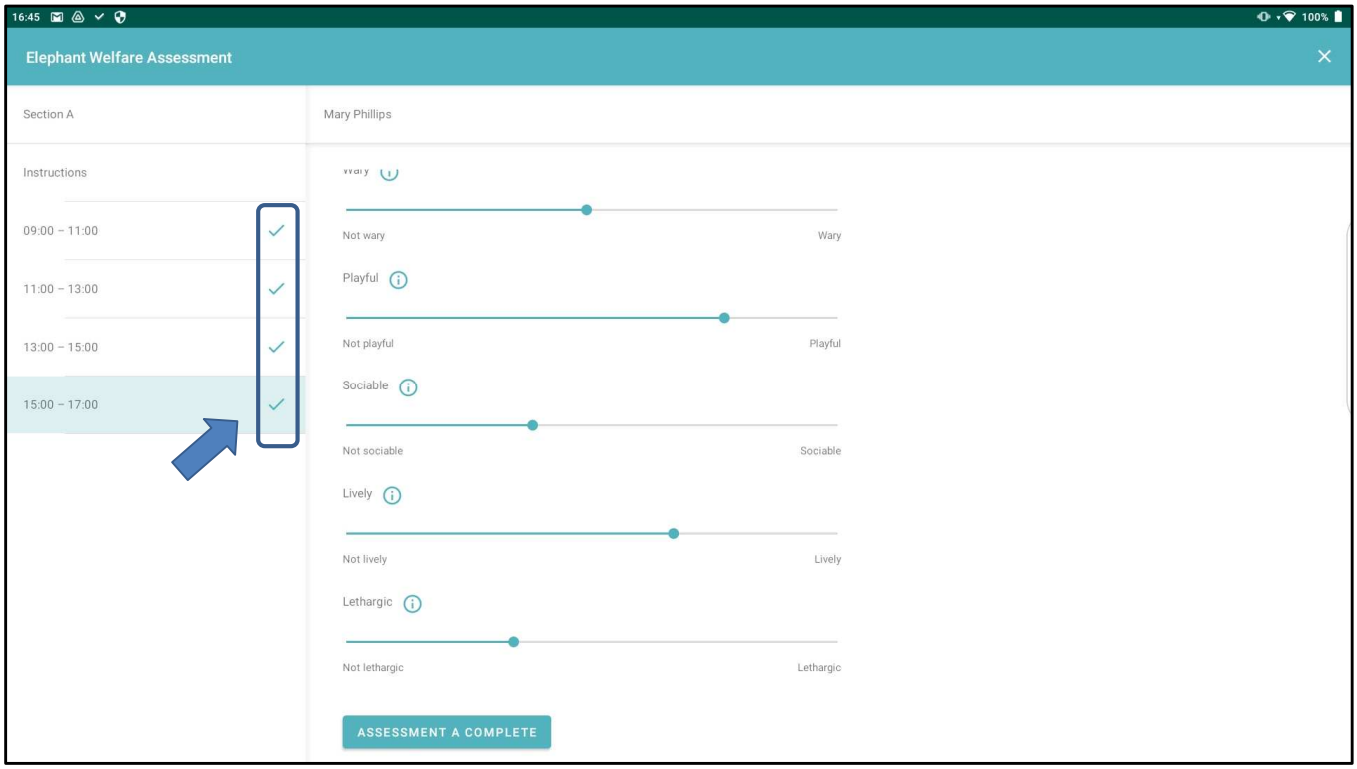
To enter the next set of observations within the next 2 hour time period, you'll need to select 'Section A' again from the home screen, and then click on the next time period for your assessment.



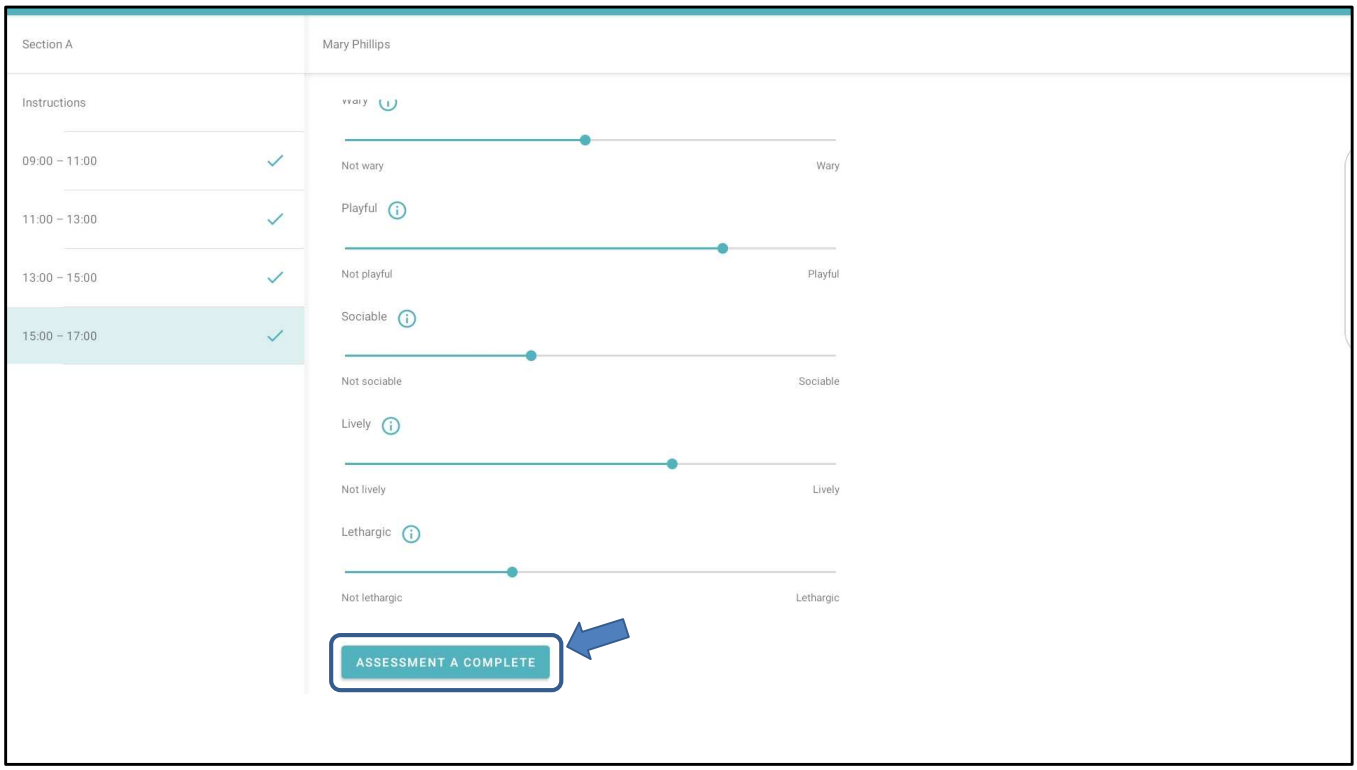
When you go back into section A, you'll see that the app has automatically moved you to the next timeslot you need to complete.



You'll also see a green check mark next to any assessment time slots that you have already completed



When you complete your fourth and final observation, you will see a green check against each of the four observation time periods listed down the lefthand side of the screen, to indicate all four observations are complete



you will also see a green button saying ‘Assessment A complete’ at the bottom of the screen. Click on this button, to save your answers and return to the home screen.

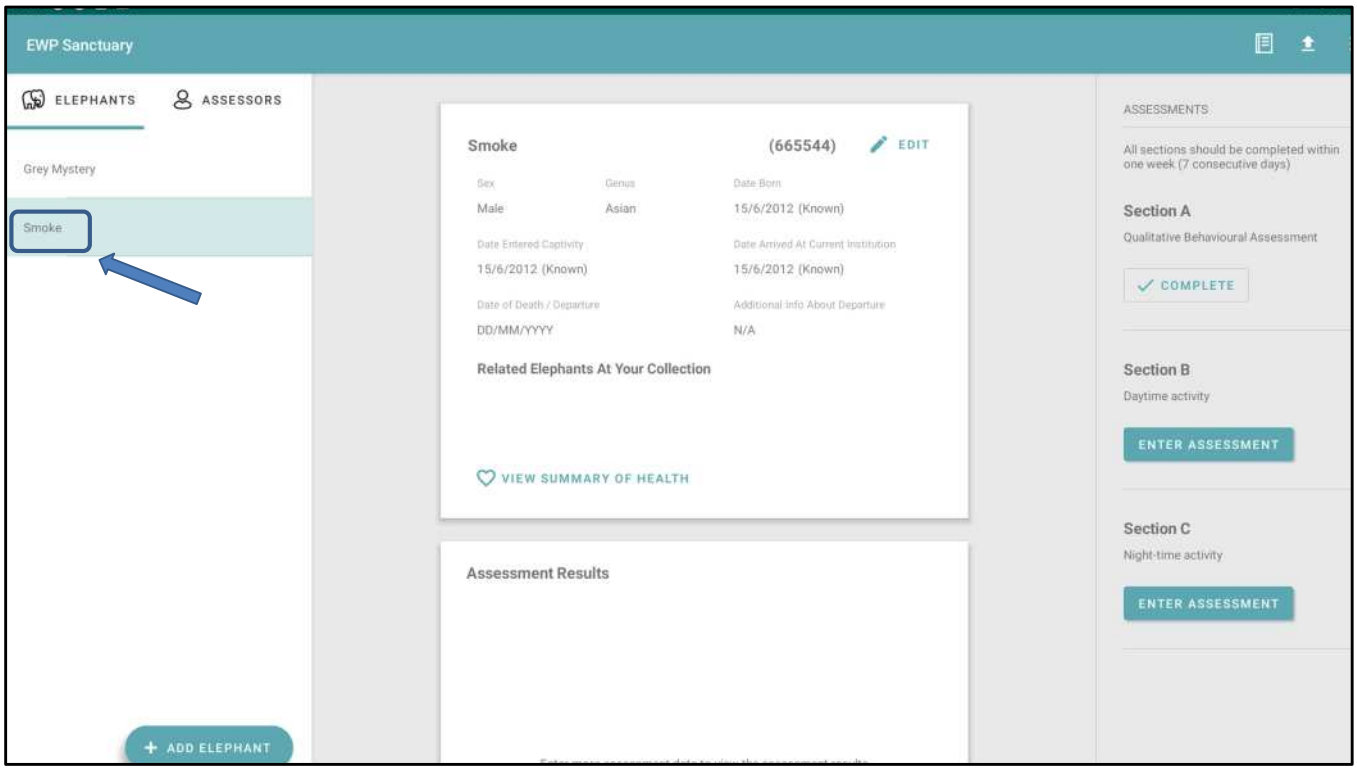
Section B - Daytime behaviour observations

Done over three days, spread across four blocks of time each day, between:

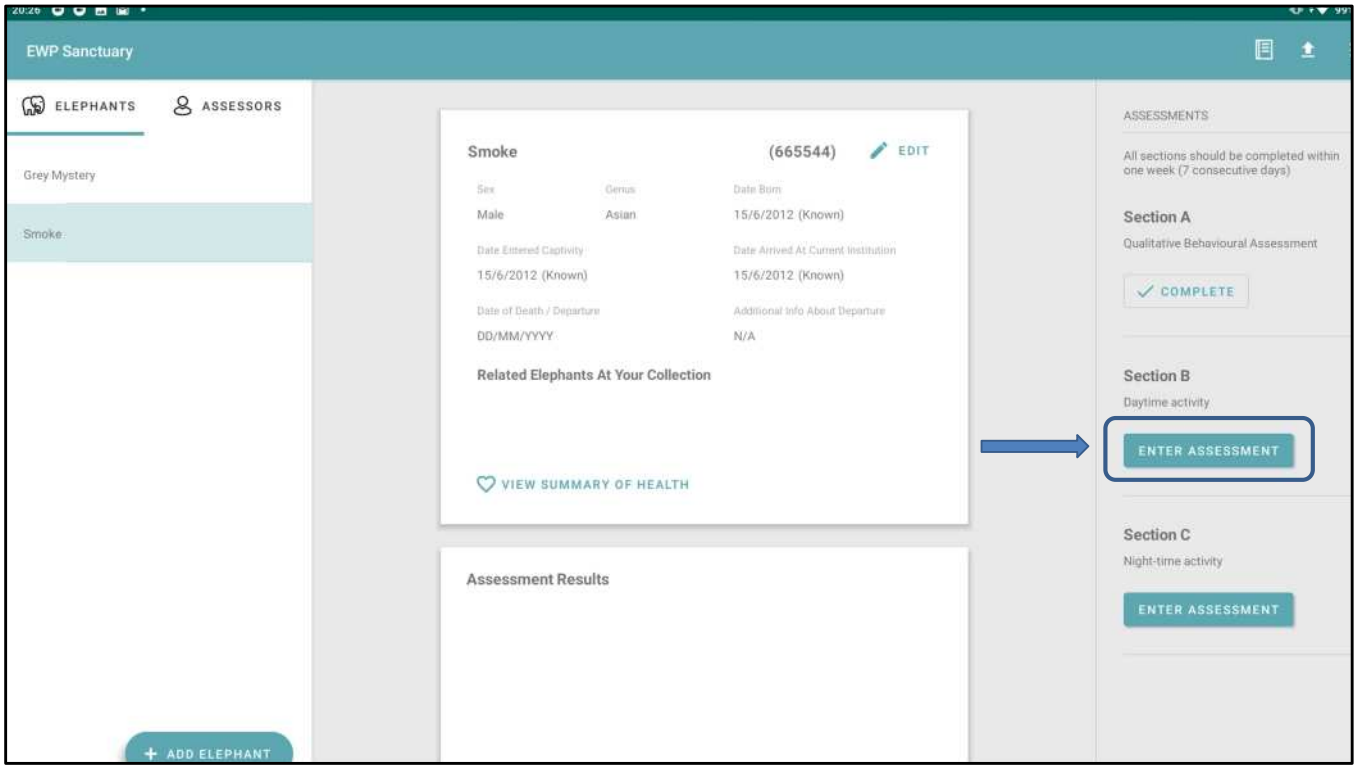
9:00 – 11:00 (9am – 1 1am)
11:00 – 13:00 (11am – 1pm)
13:00 – 15:00 (1pm – 3pm)
15:00 – 17:00 (3pm – 5pm)

In this part of the video, you will learn how to complete Section B, which involves recording Daytime Behaviours You will make these observations for three days in a row.

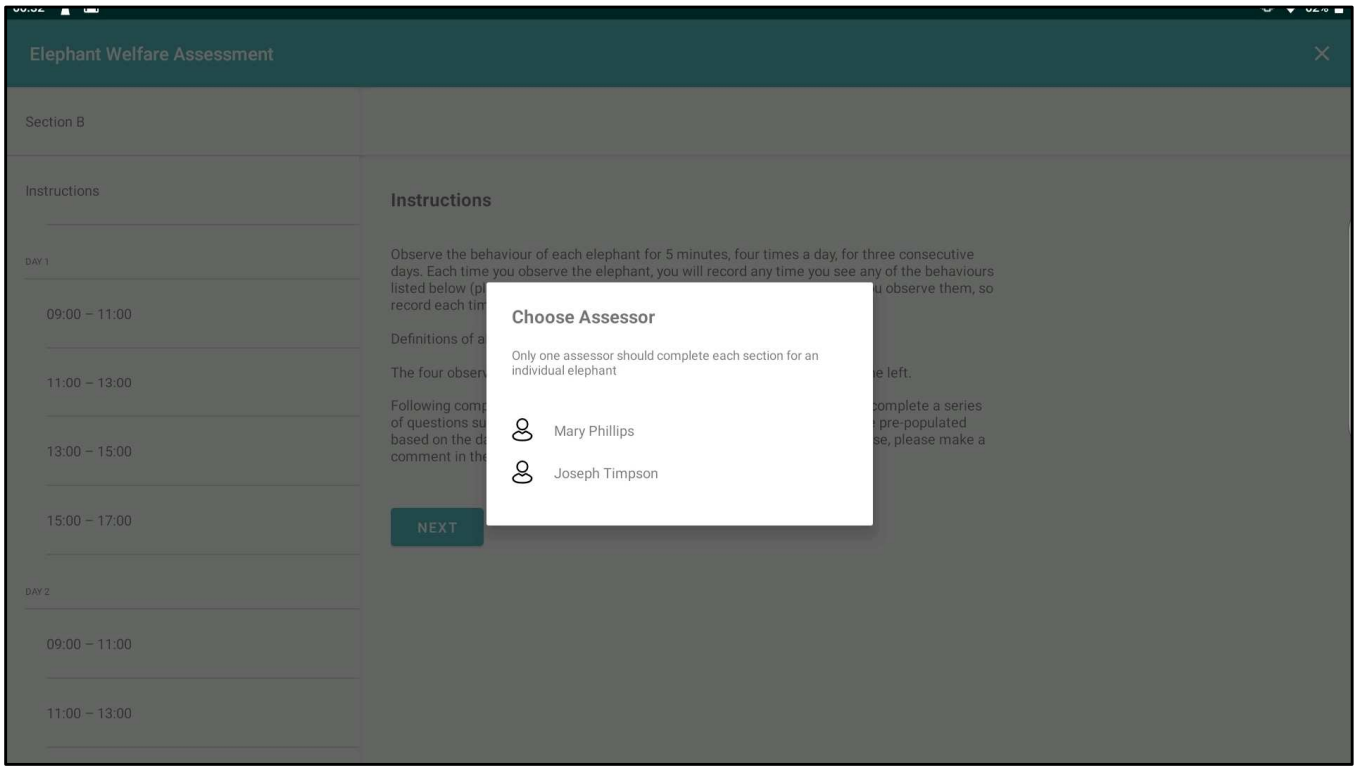
And on each day, you will observe your elephant's behaviour four times a day, at times spread across the day. So you'll observe the elephant between 9 and 11am, 11am to 1pm, 1pm to 3pm, and between 3 and 5pm.



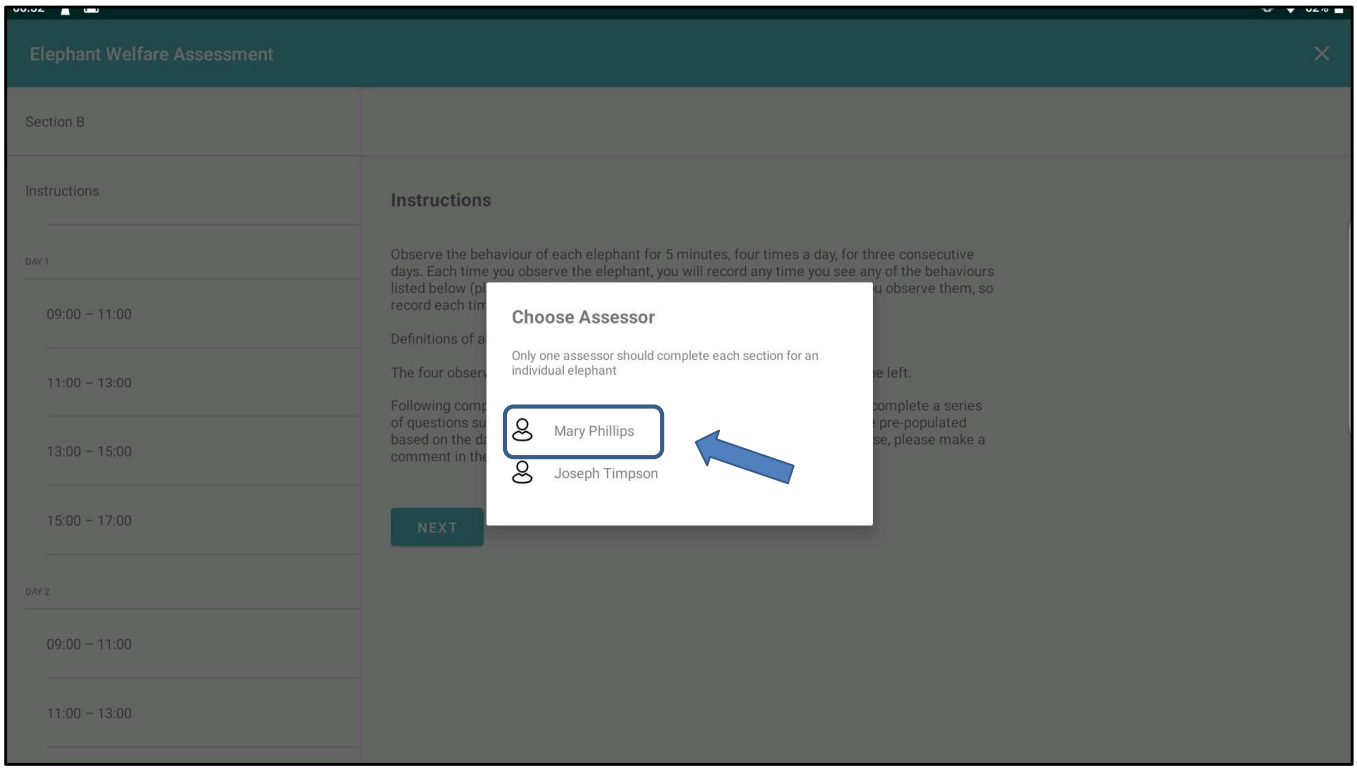
From the home screen, first choose the elephant you'll be observing, from your list of elephants on the lefthand pane



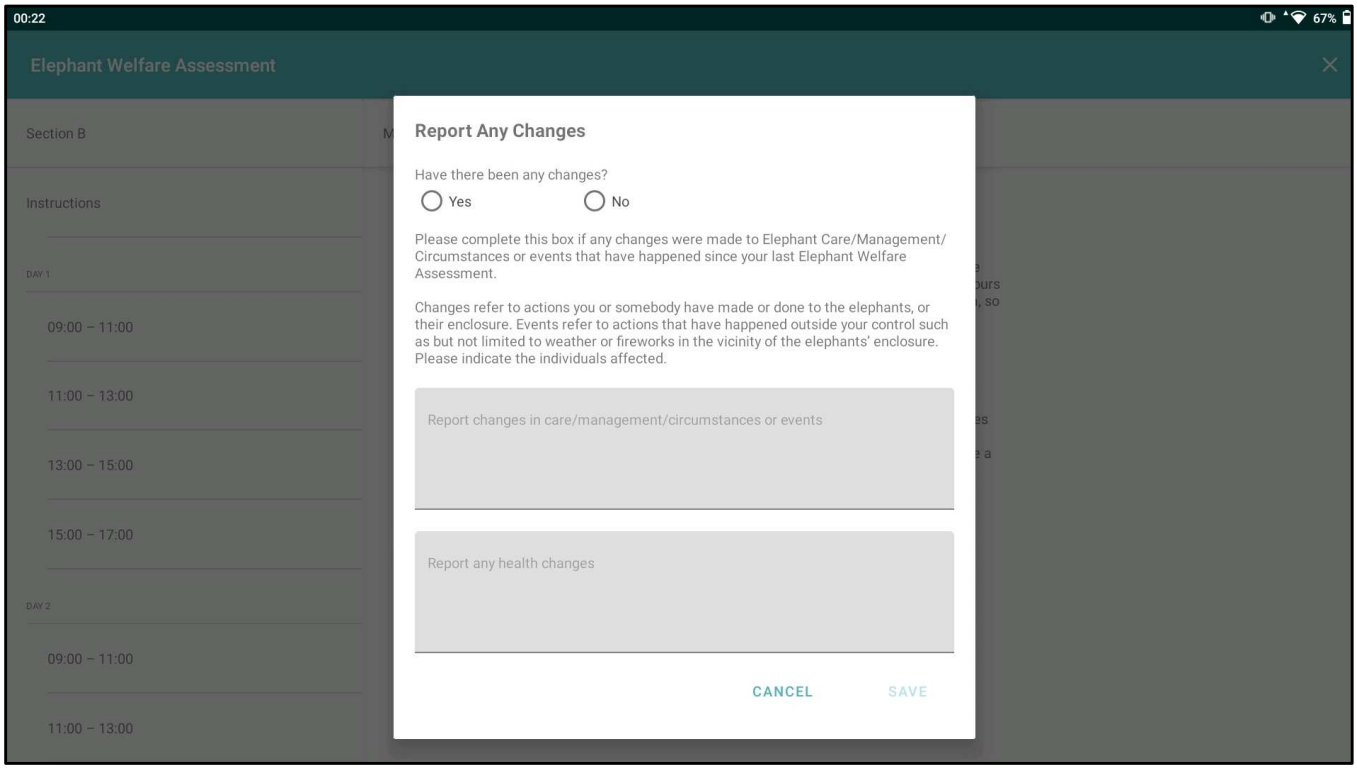
AND then click on ‘enter assessment’ under Section B – Daytime behaviour, from the righthand pane



You will then see a popup screen listing all of the assessors you have registered at your facility



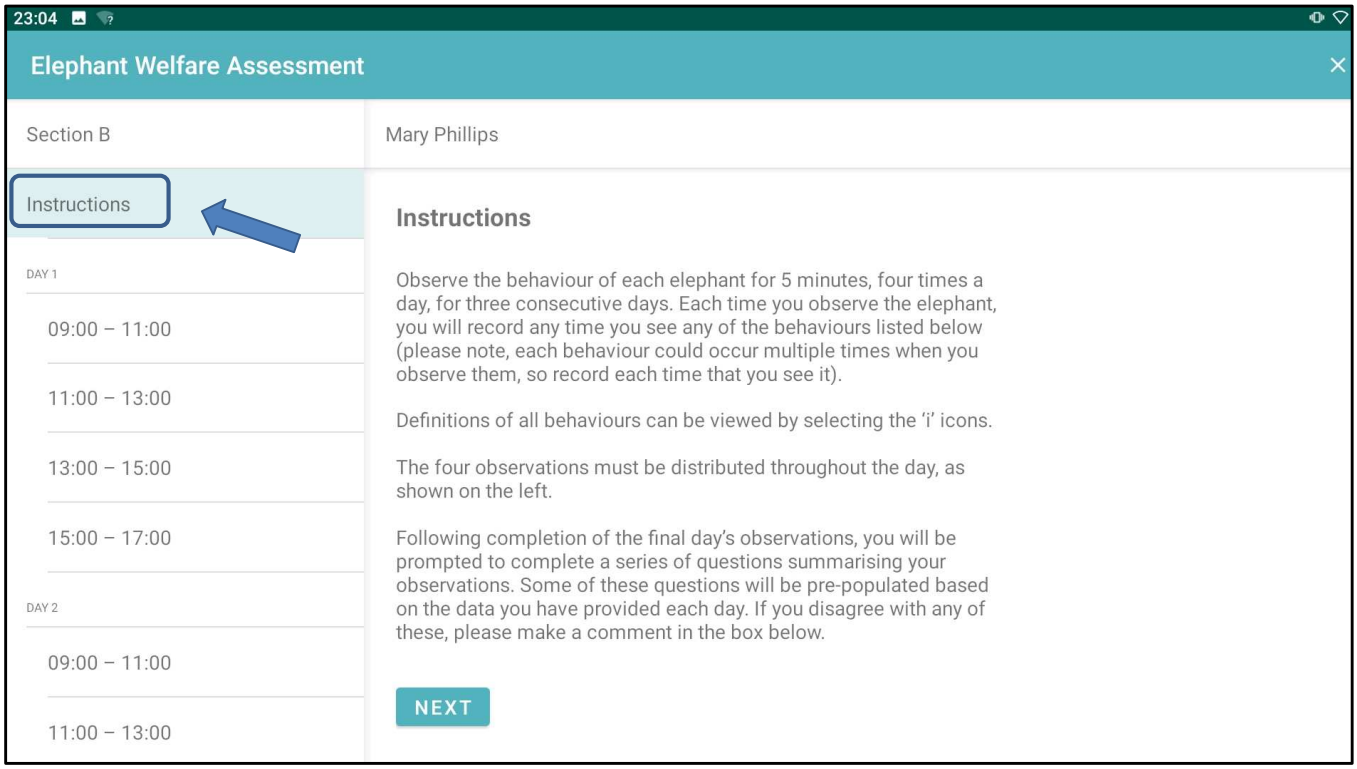
Click on the name of the person doing the current assessment



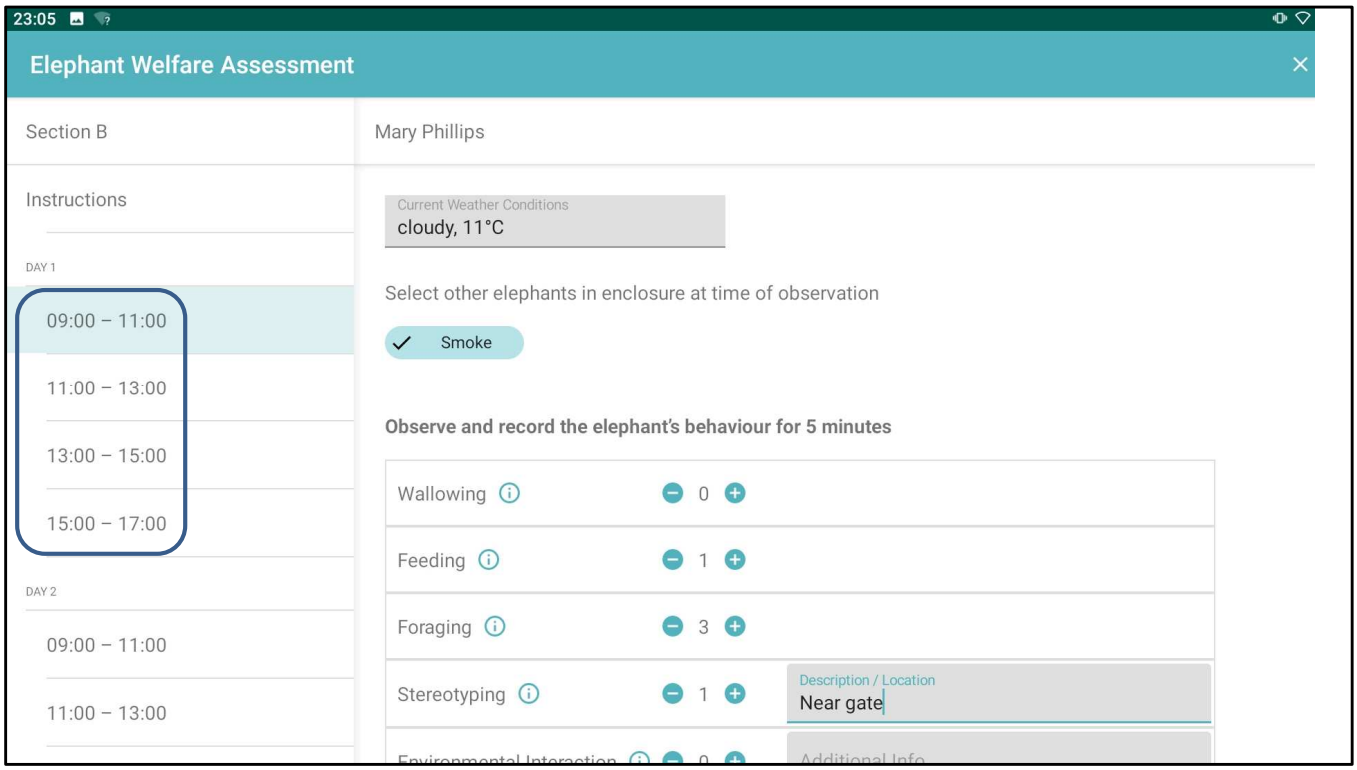
Next you will see a popup screen asking if there have been any changes to that elephant's health, facility, management or social group

If you have already provided information on changes in one of the other sections, you can select 'no' on this screen, and the information you previously submitted will be transferred across from the other sections.

Otherwise, please provide information on any changes in health, enclosure, management or social group that you think might have affected that elephant's behaviour.

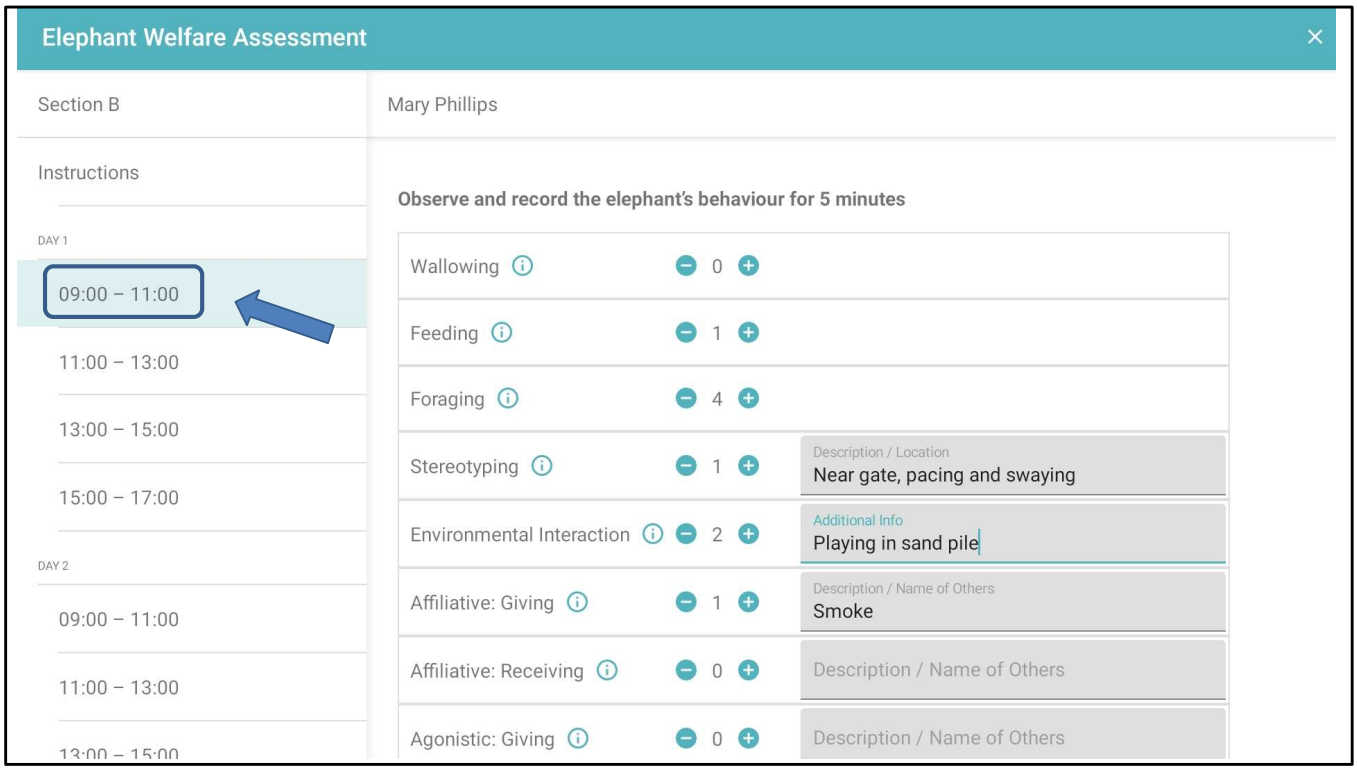


in the lefthand panel, the first item you can click on is 'instructions'. This will give you a short summary of how to complete that section of the tool. If you need more detail, you can refer to the app handbook, which you can view either on your tablet, or online at the EWP website, (www.elephantwelfareproject.org)

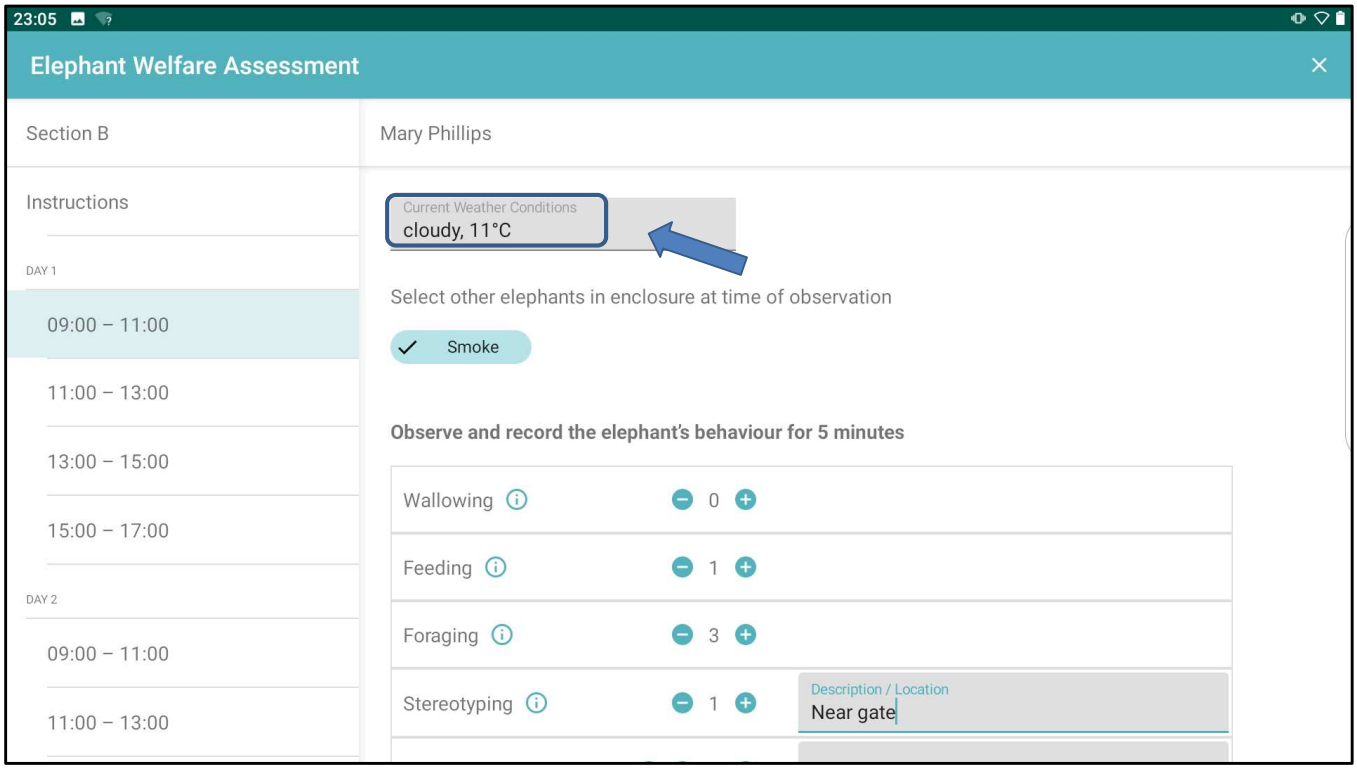


You'll see that for each of the 3 days of observation, you need to make one observation between 9 and 11 am, one between 11am and 1pm, one between 1 and 3pm, and the last one between 3 and 5pm

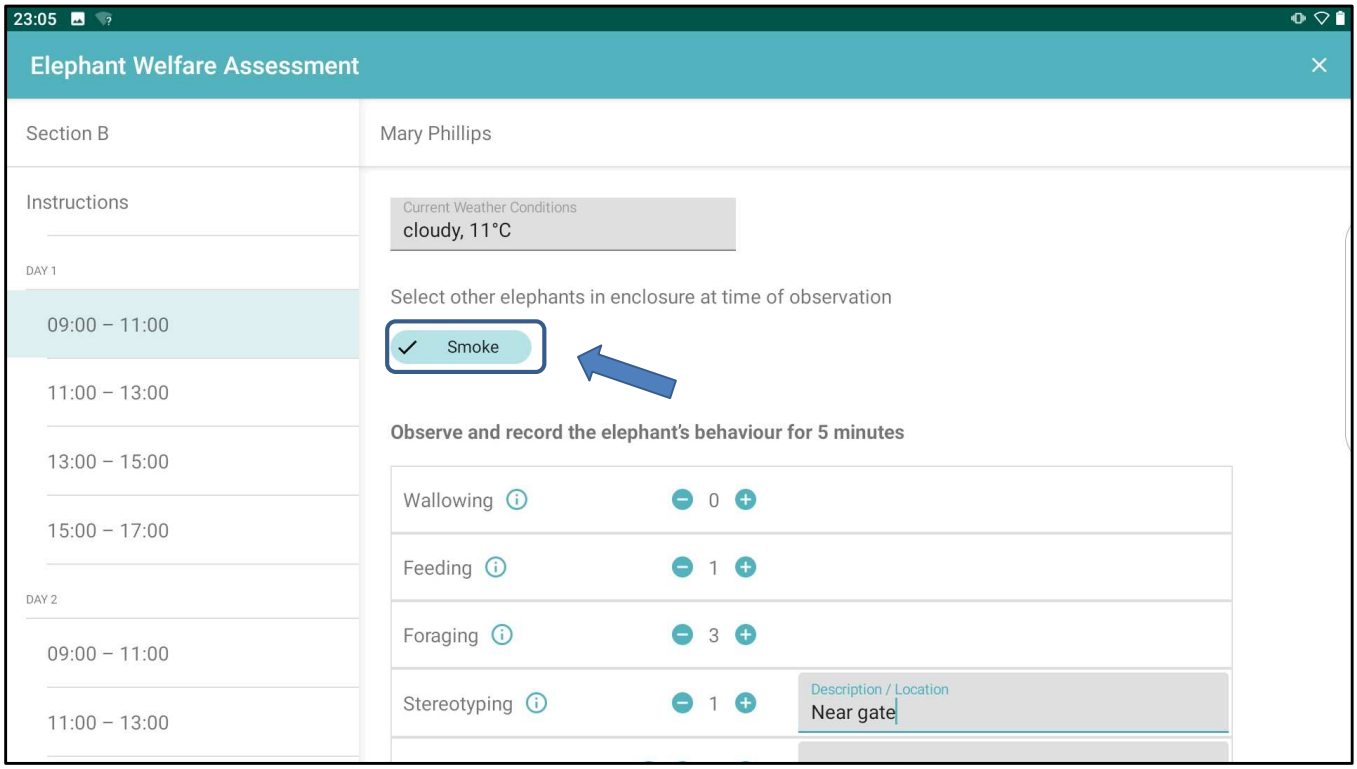
Click on the correct 2 hour block of time when you are making your observation, from these options in the left hand pane.



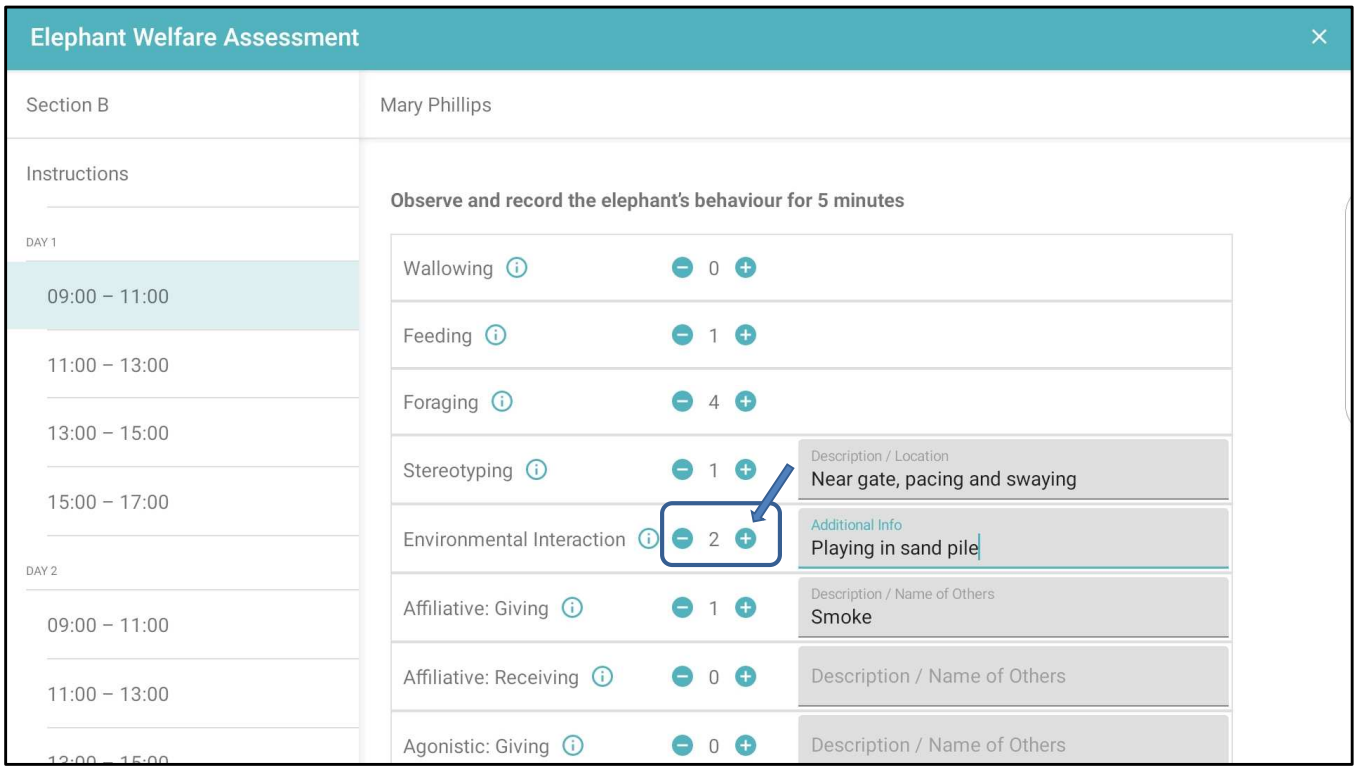
Your must make your first observation between 9 and 11am, so for your first observation, click on that time slot,



You can enter the current weather conditions in the top of the main pane

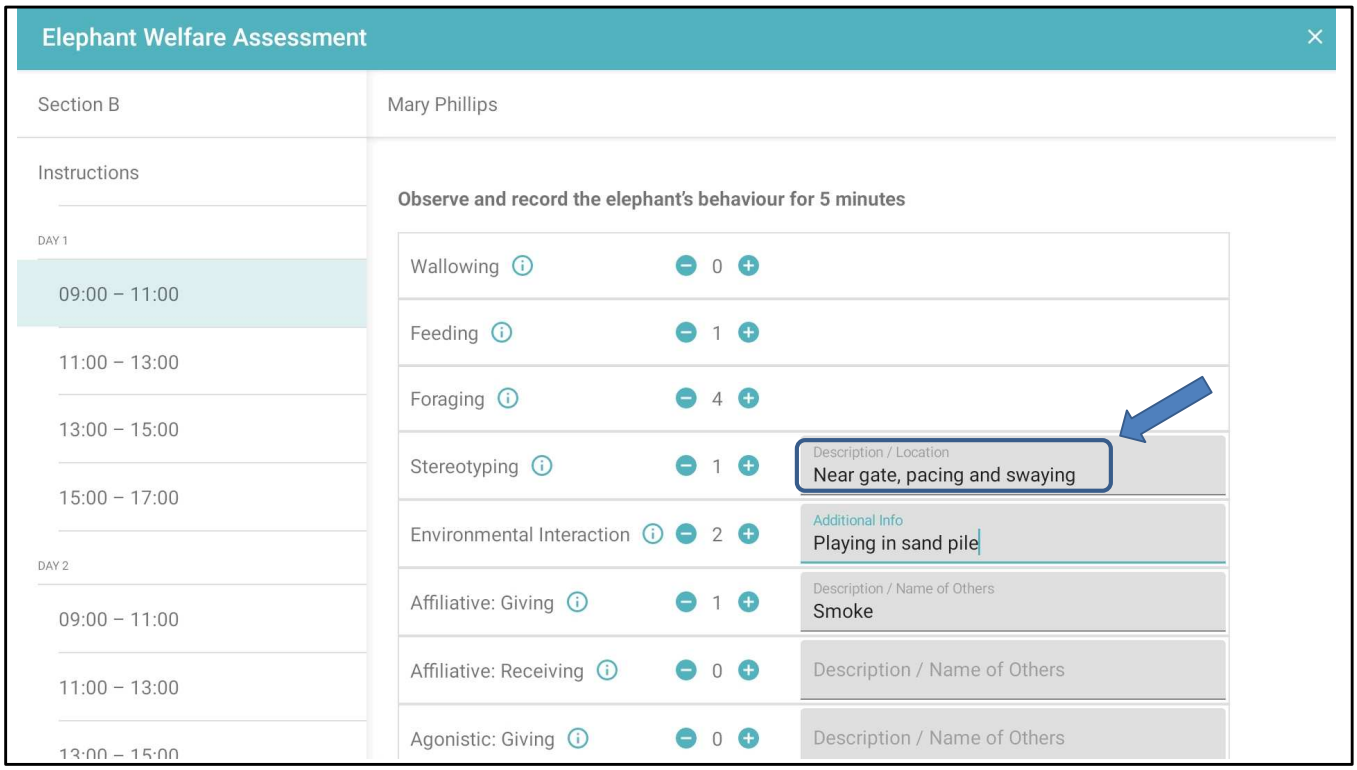


Then you can select any other elephants at the facility who are in the enclosure with your elephant at the time of your observation.

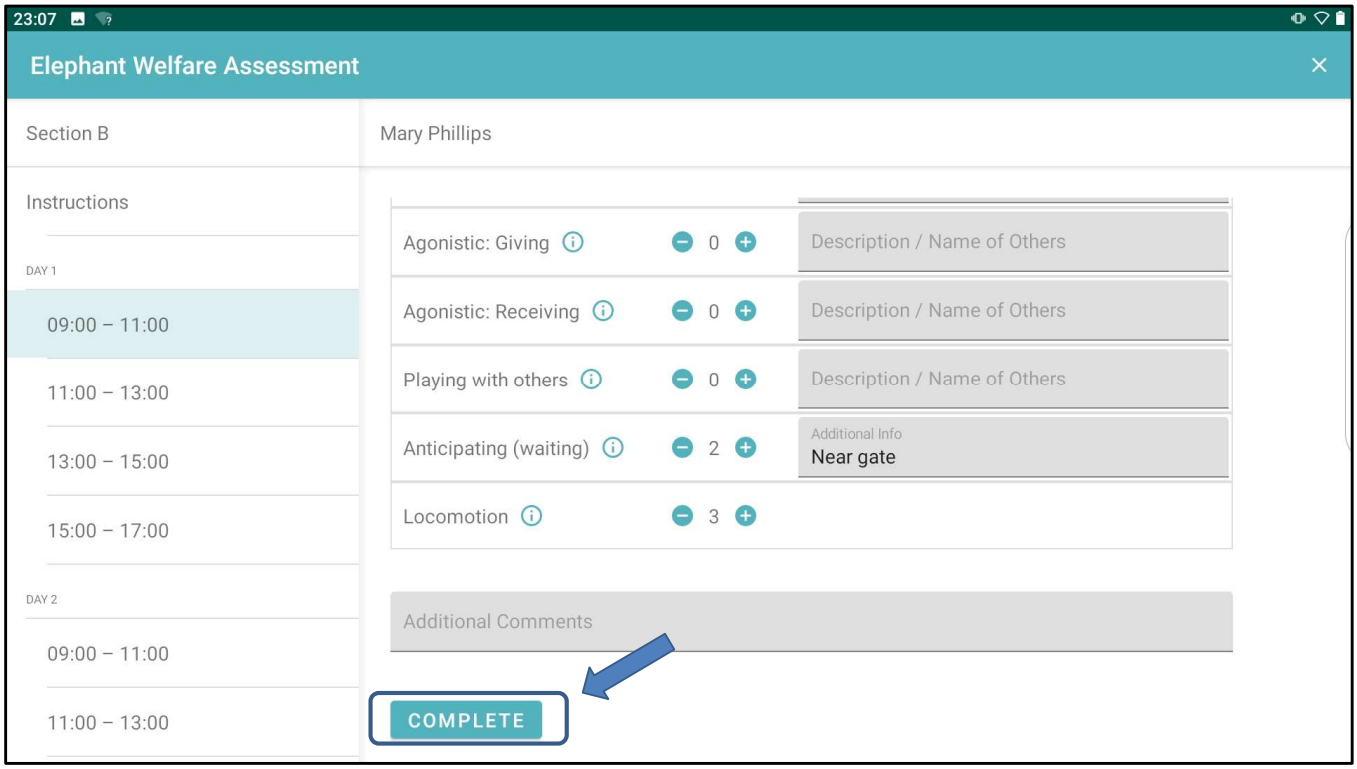


Observe the elephant for 5 minutes, looking for any of the behaviours listed on the screen.

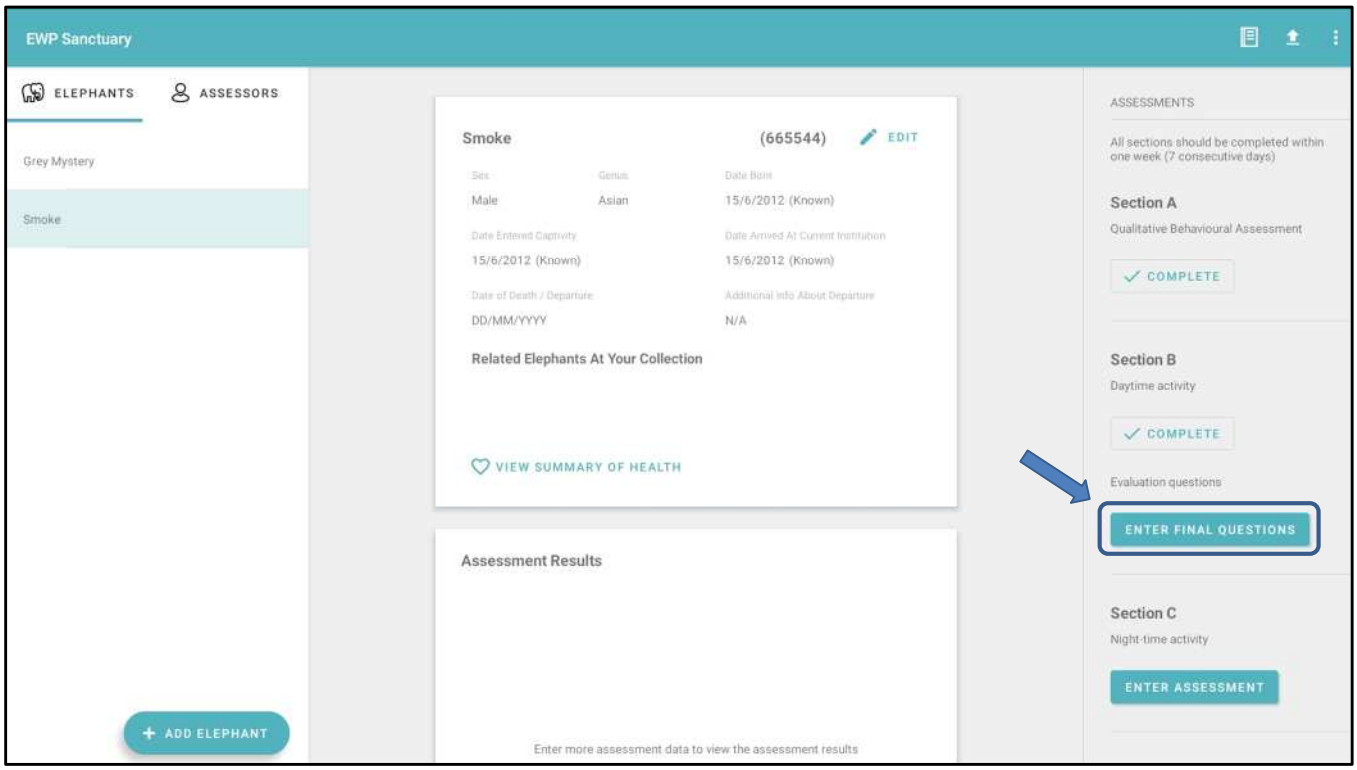
Any time that you see the elephant perform that behaviour, click on the 'plus' sign, to add to a running count of the number of times you see that behaviour.



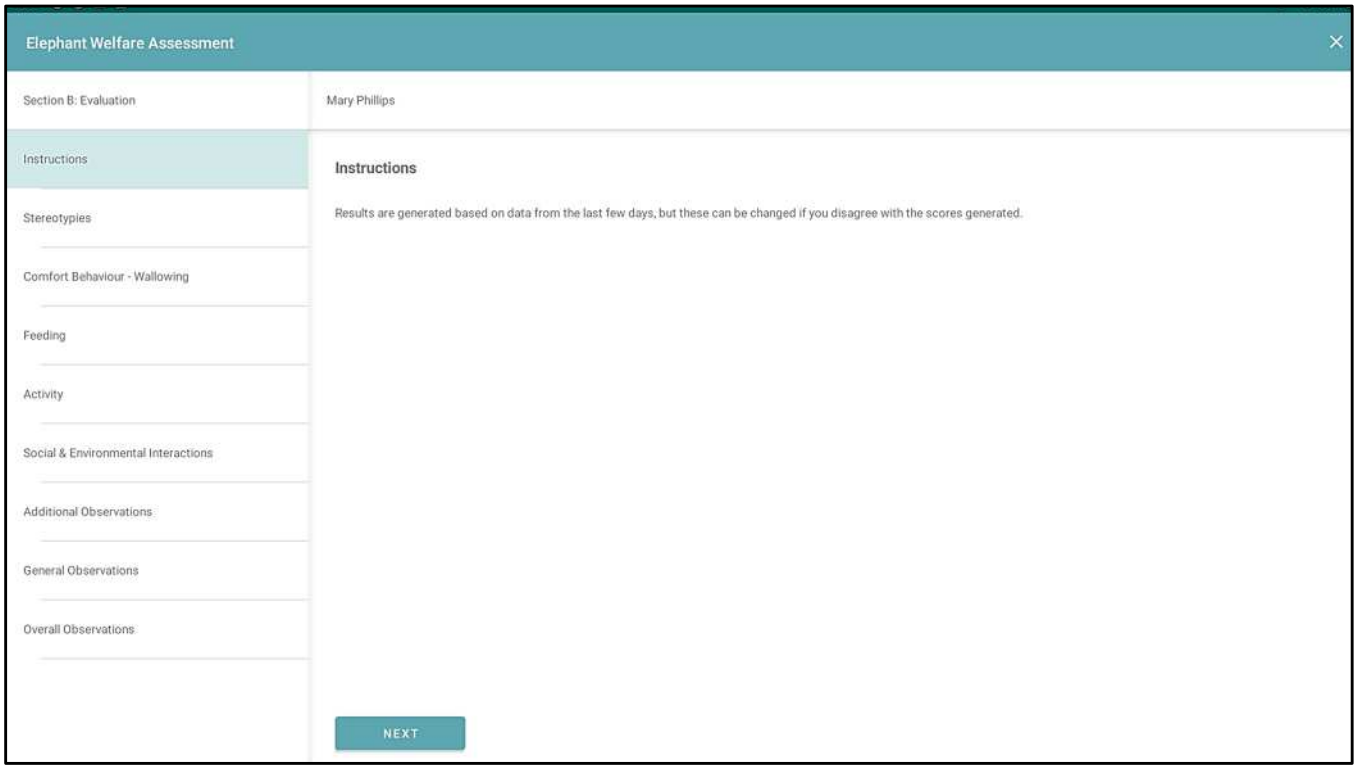
For some of the behaviours you will see there is a grey text box next to them – provide any details you can about the behaviour you have observed.



When you have finished an observation, make sure to scroll down to the bottom of that screen, and click on the green ‘complete’ button, to make sure your observations for that session are saved on the tablet.

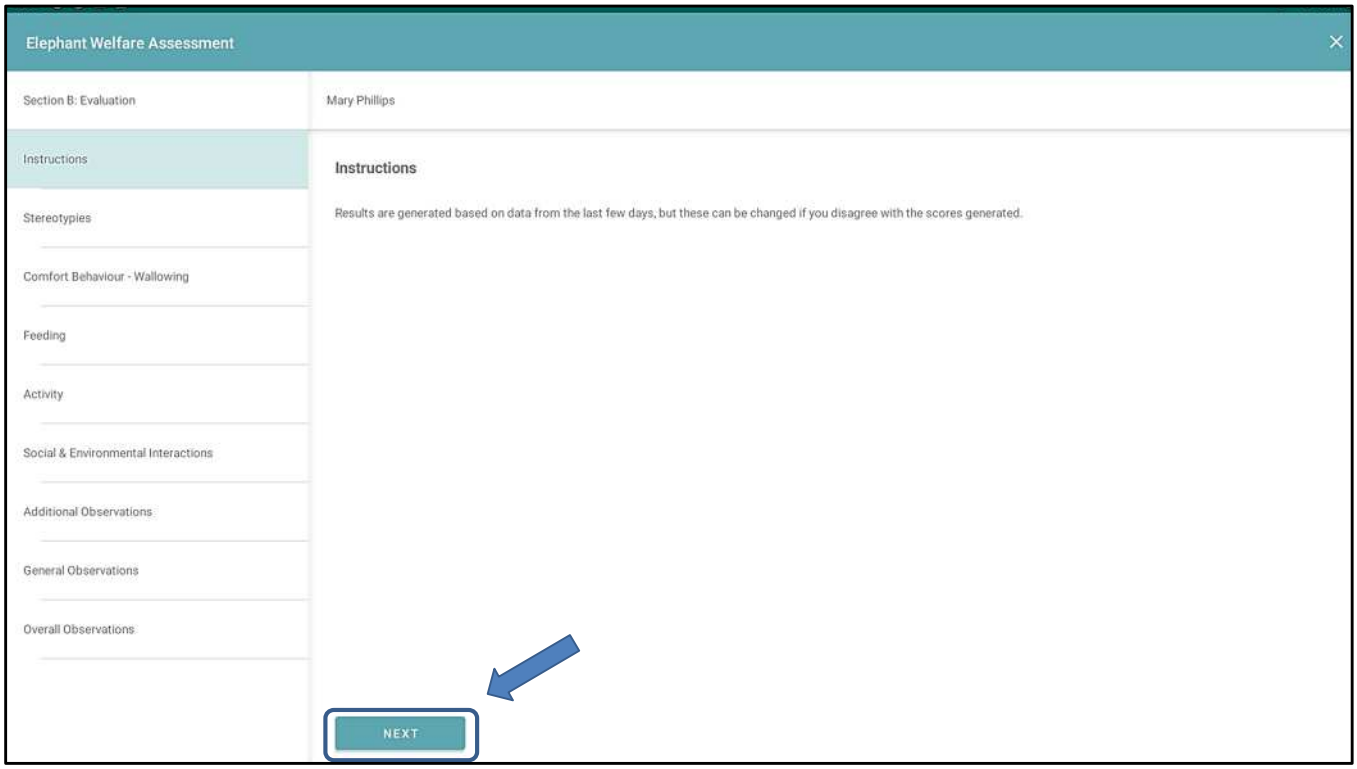


Once you have finished with your 3 days of daytime behavioural observations, you must return to the Home Screen and click on the green ‘Enter Final Questions’ button which you can see listed under Section B in the right hand pane

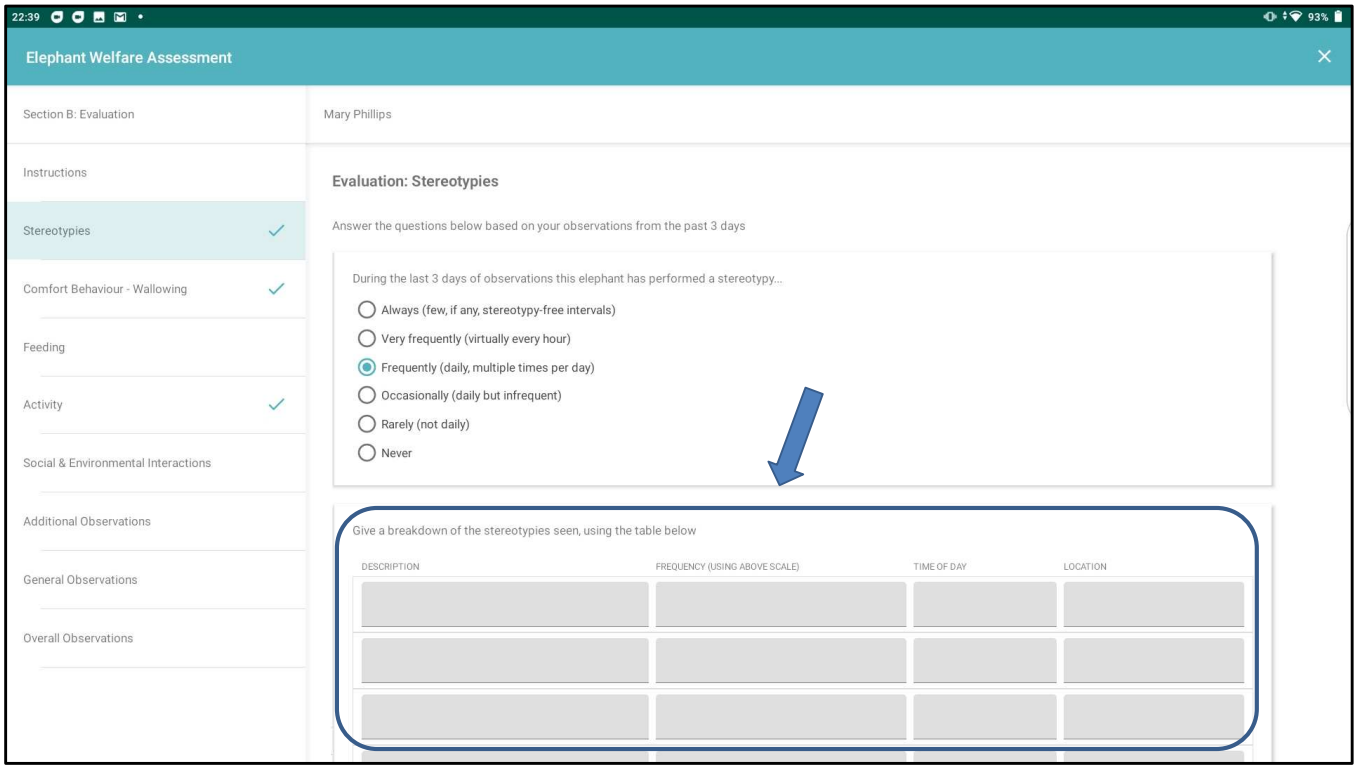


This will take you to the Section B: Evaluation section. The first thing you will see at the top are the instructions for this section. Many of the answers to the questions here will be pre-filled, based on the data you entered over the past 3 days. For these questions you don't need to do anything else.

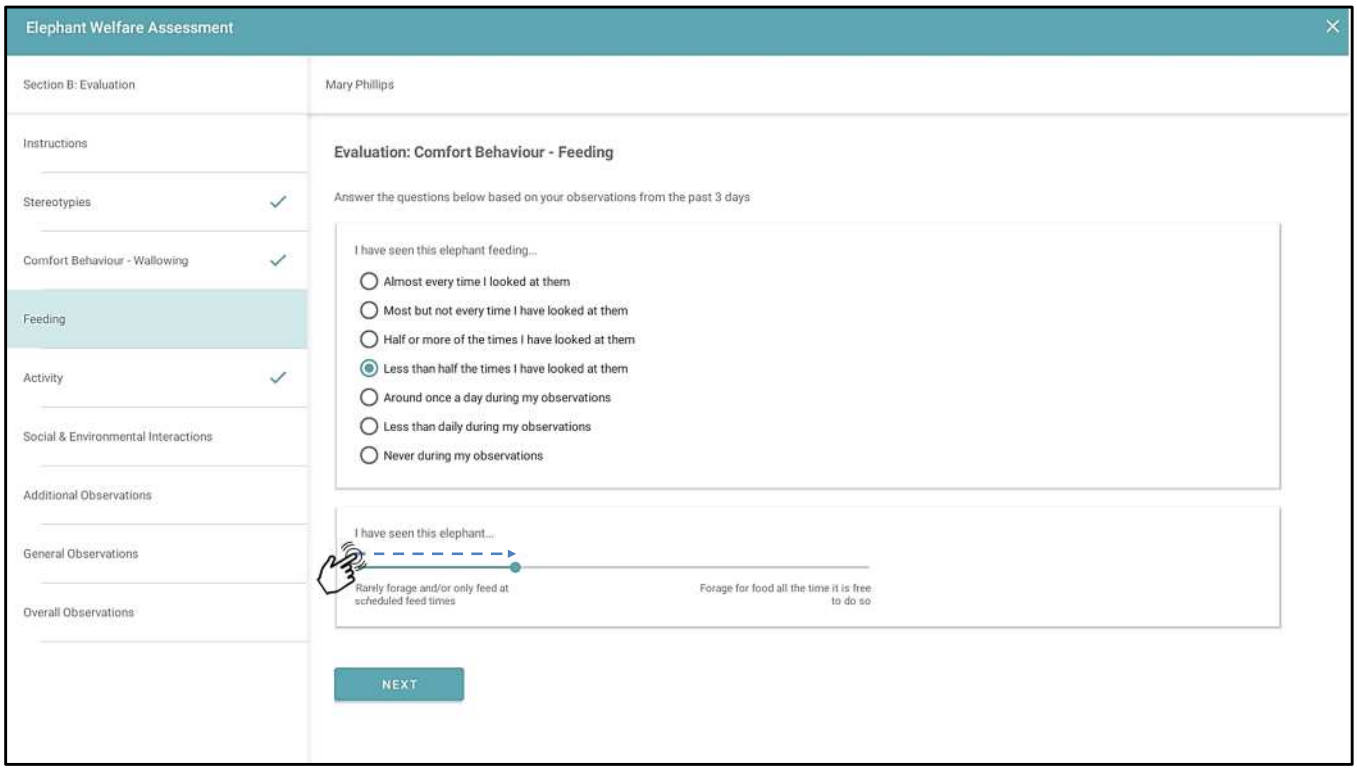
But in a number of sections you will see some additional questions that don't yet have an answer. You will need to review and answer these questions



Each time you have finished on a screen, click ‘next’ to submit your answers and move to the next screen.

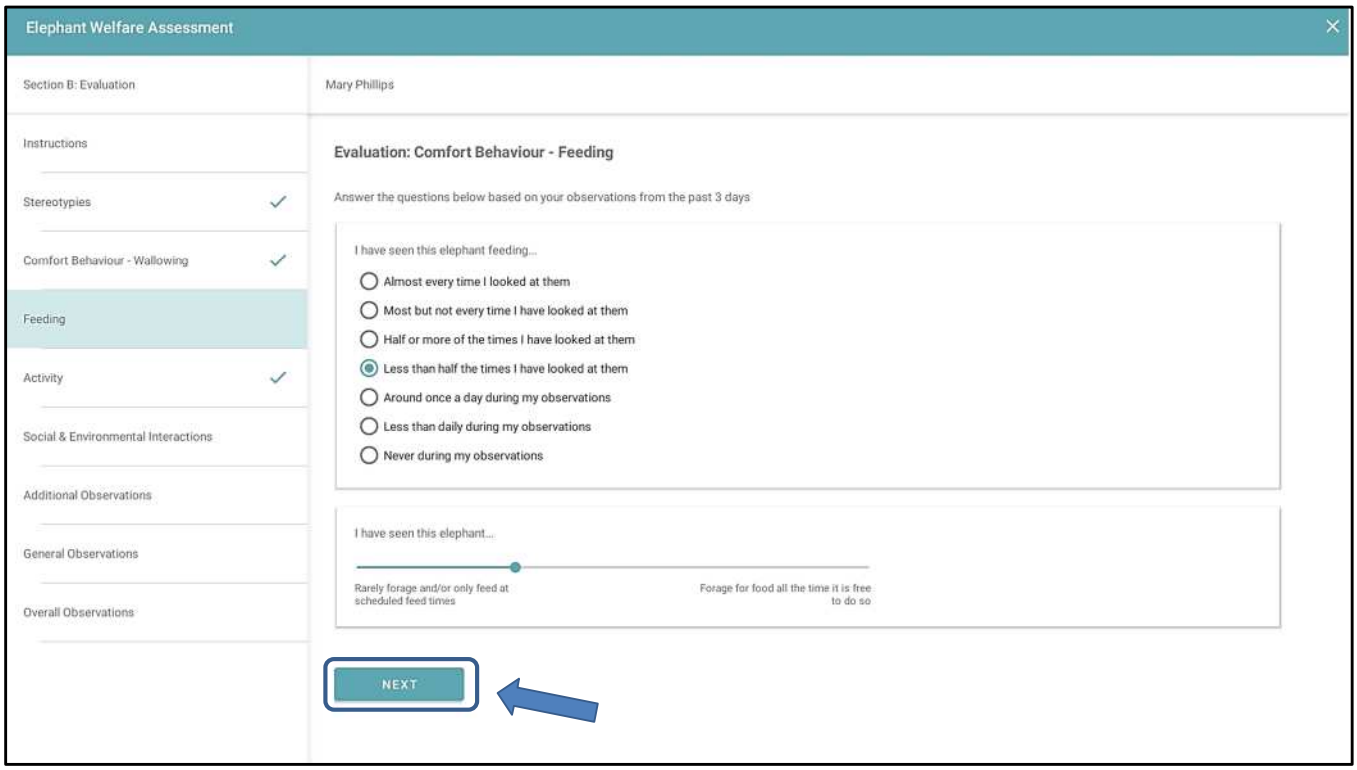


For the section on Stereotypies, if you saw the elephant perform any stereotypies over the past 3 days, enter the details in the grey text boxes provided

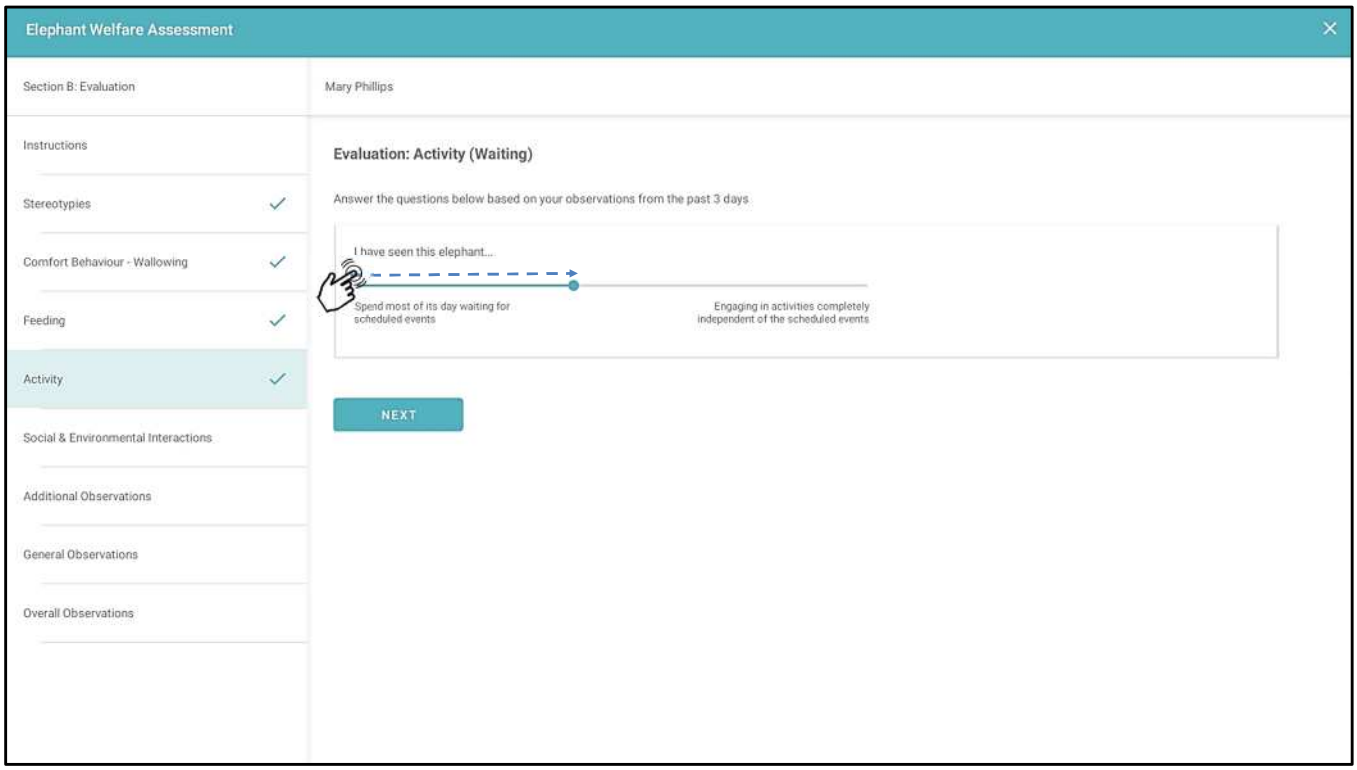


For the section on feeding behaviour, answer the question at the bottom of the screen, to rate how often you saw the elephant foraging for food throughout the day, when it was free to do so.

The possible answer could range from rarely foraging at all, and only feeding at scheduled times, on the left hand edge of the scale, up to foraging for food all the time it is free to do so, on the right hand end of the scale. Move the slider to the location you think best describes the behaviour you observed.

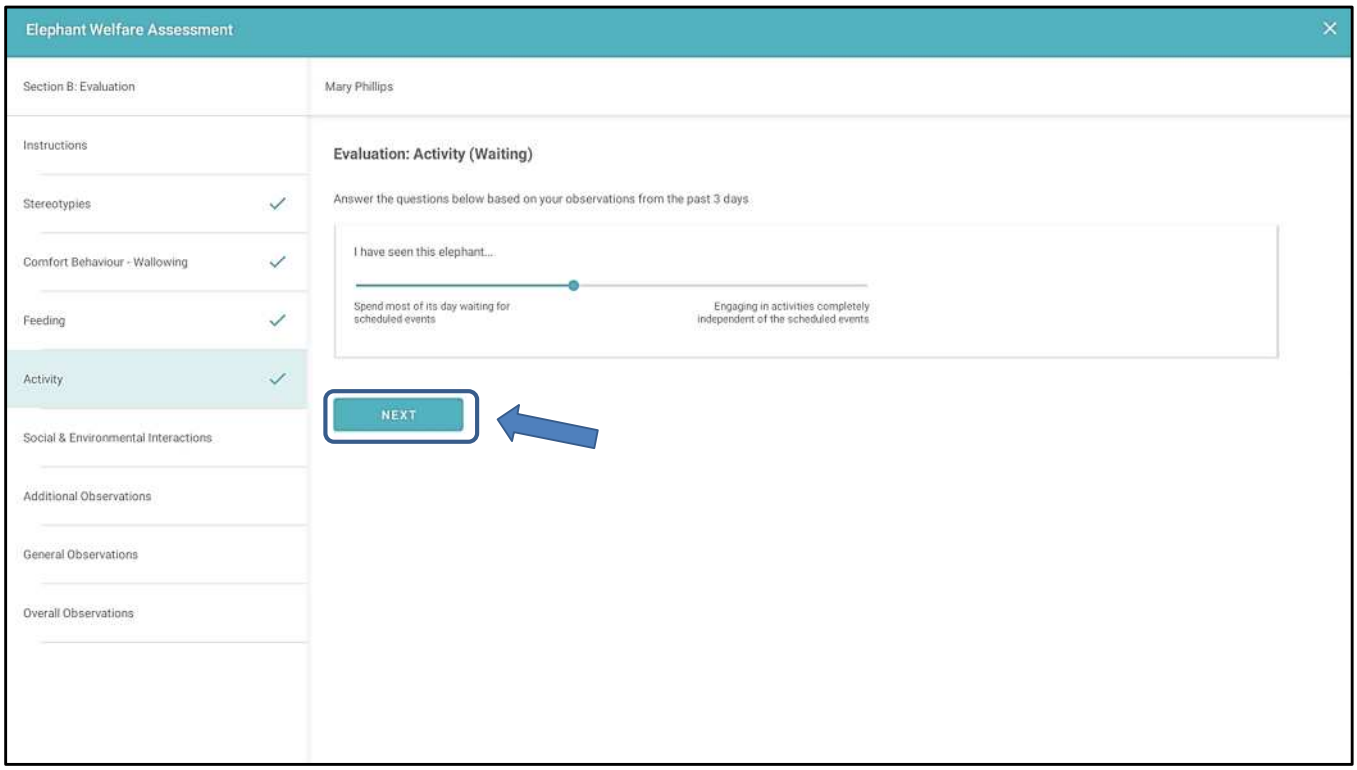


Again, click on ‘next’ at the bottom of the screen, to save your answer and move onto the next screen

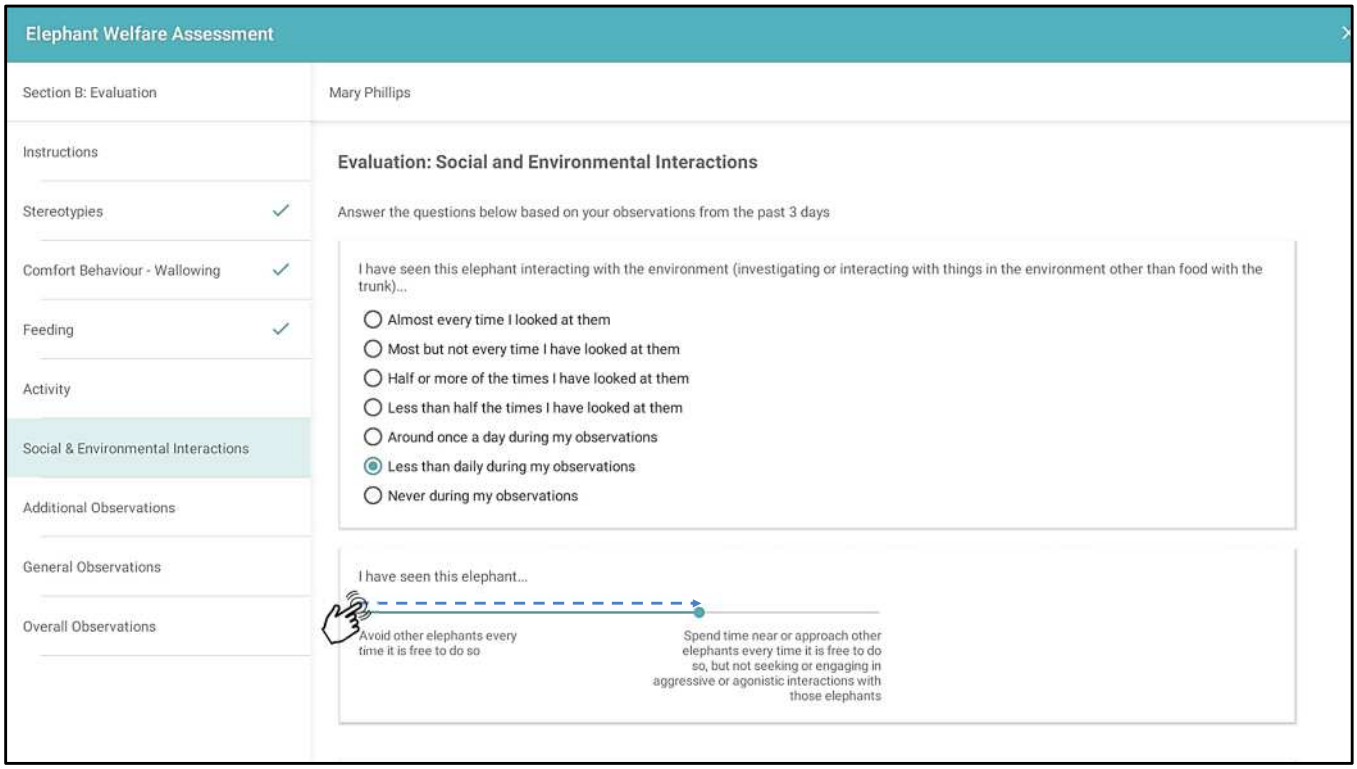


For the question on activity:waiting, use the slider to rate how much you saw the elephant waiting for scheduled events over the past 3 days.

Click on the slider on the left, and drag it across to the right, to the place you think best describes how much you saw that behaviour.



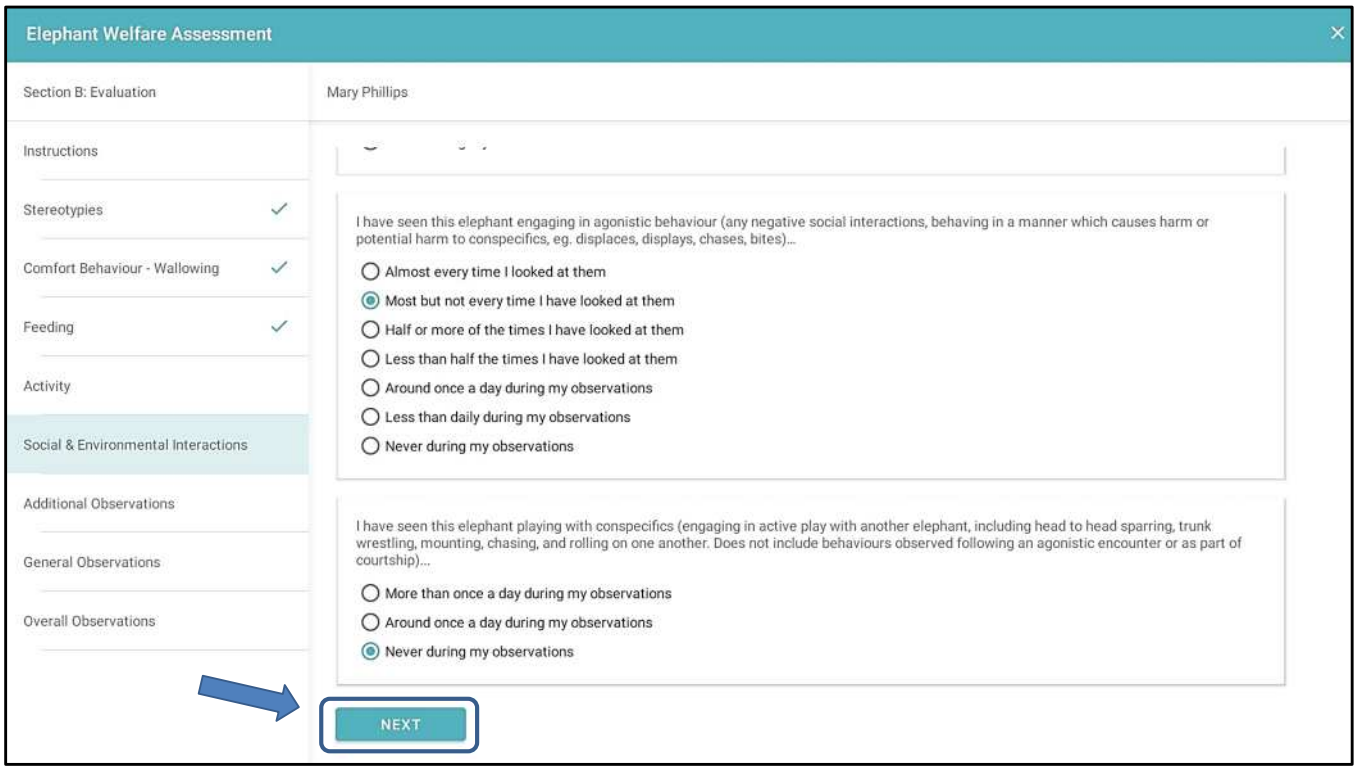
Again, click on the ‘next’ button to save your answers and move to the next section



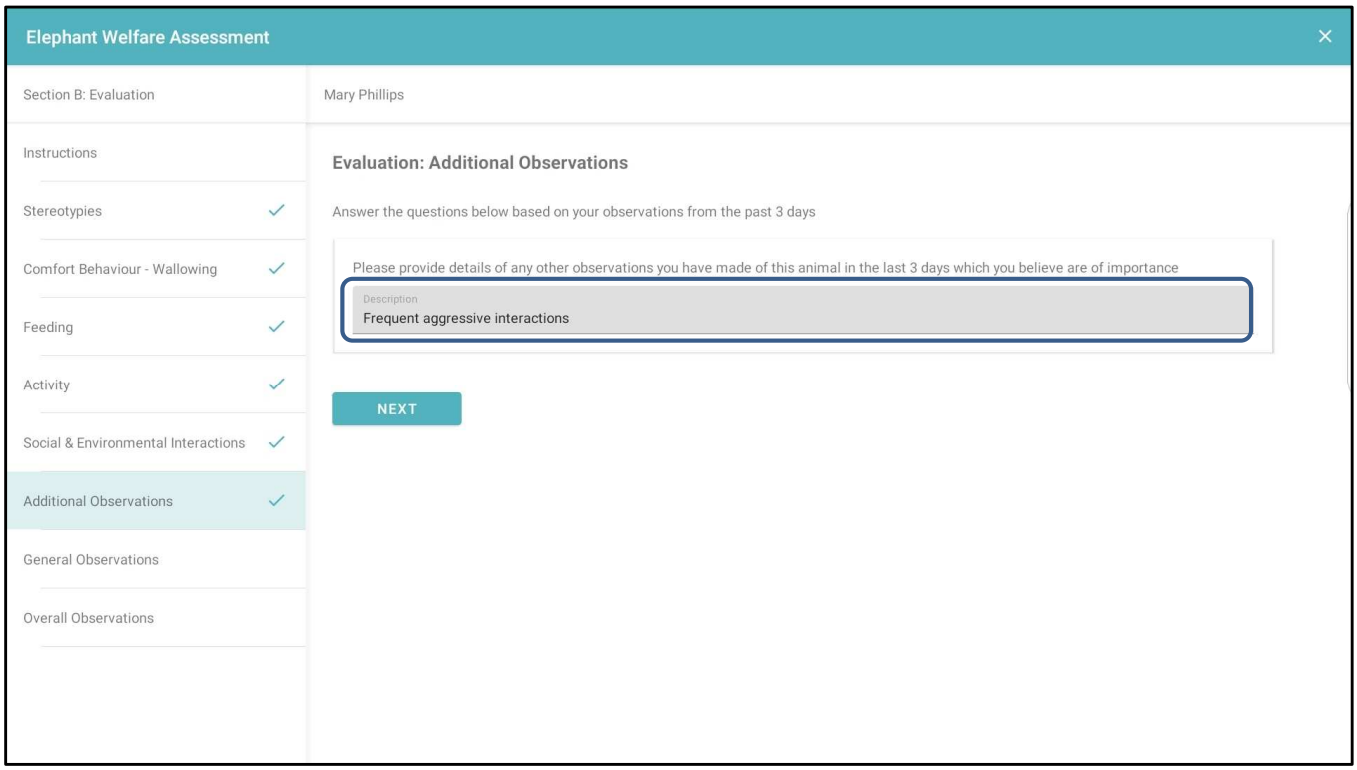
For the section on Social and Environmental Interactions, you will see a number of questions with the answers pre-filled from the observations you made.

But you will see a question with a sliding scale, asking how much you saw the elephant either avoiding or approaching other elephants over the past 3 days.

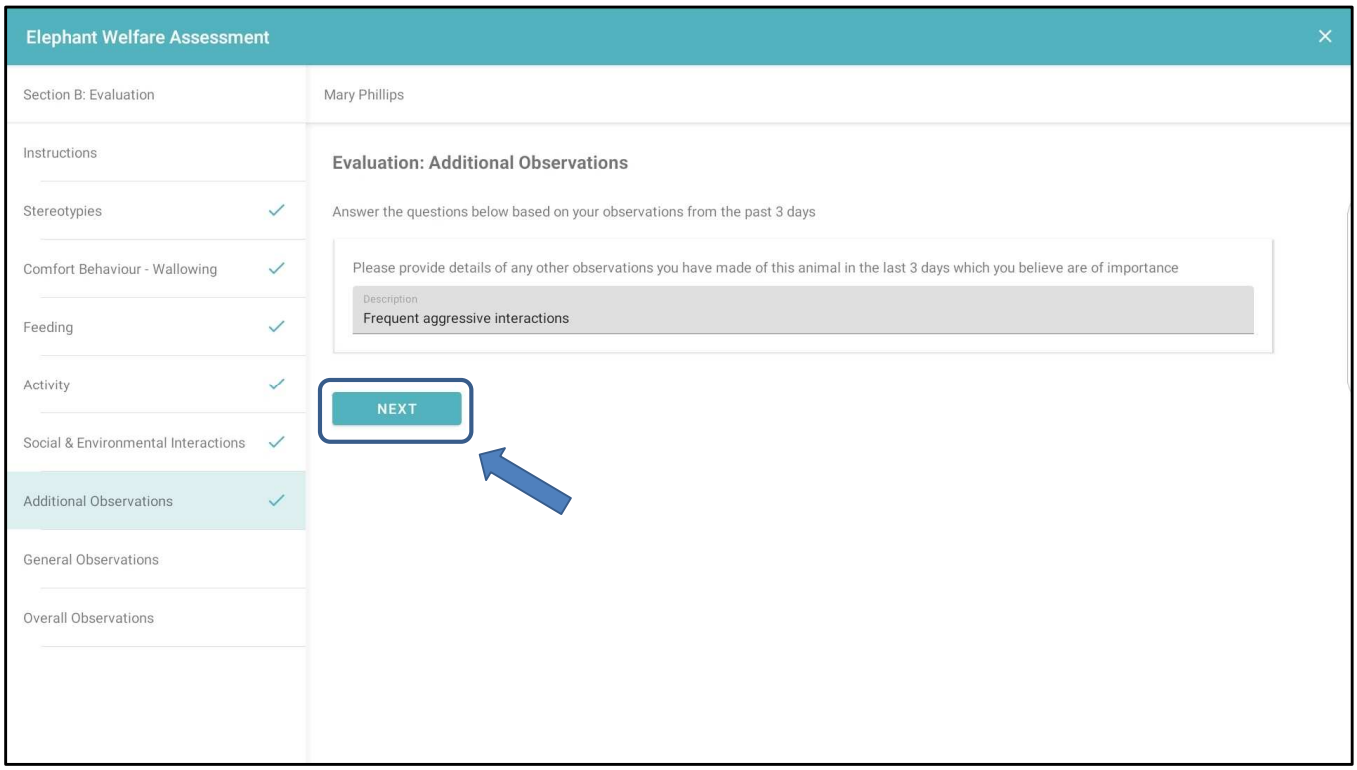
Click on the slider on the left, and drag it across to the right, to the place you think best describes how much you saw that behaviour.



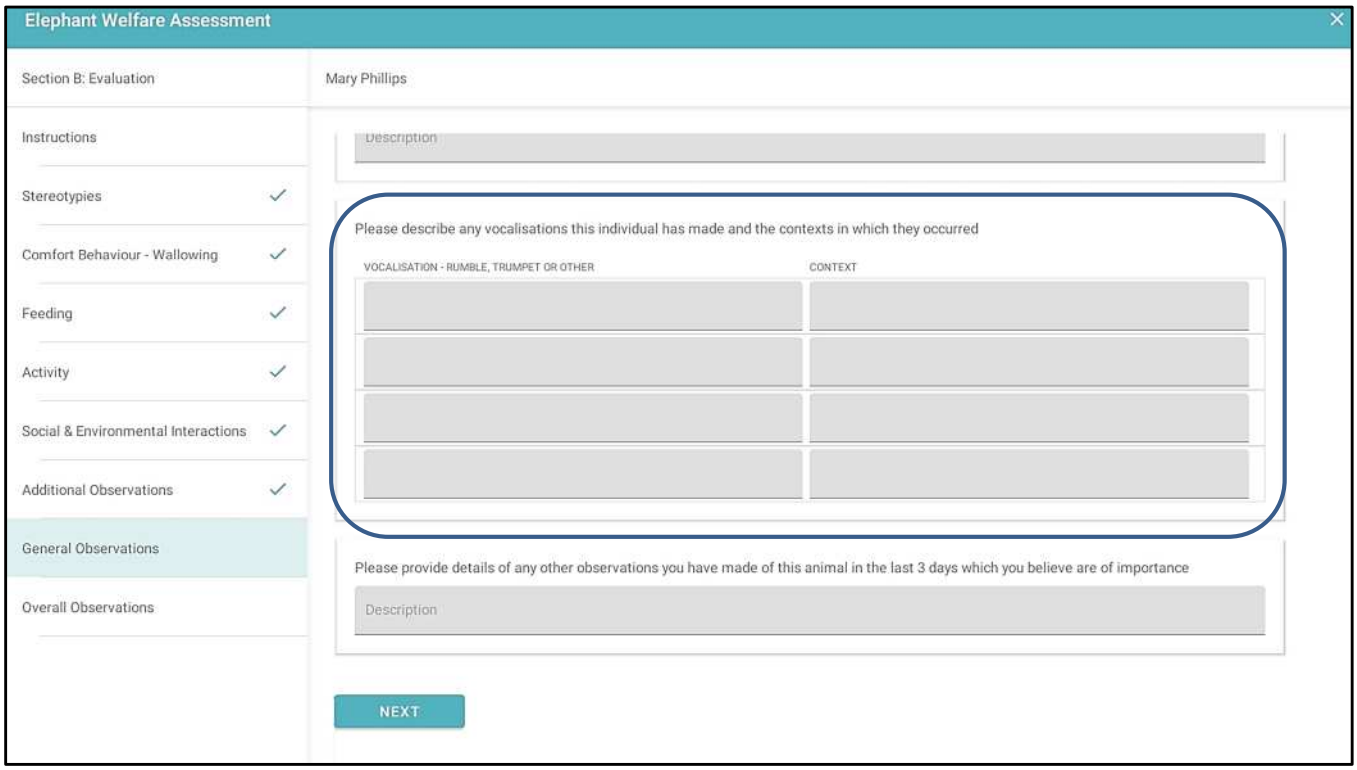
Again, click on ‘next’ at the bottom of the screen, to save your answer and move onto the next screen



Under ‘Additional Observations’, use the grey text box to enter anything else about that elephant’s behaviour that you think is important

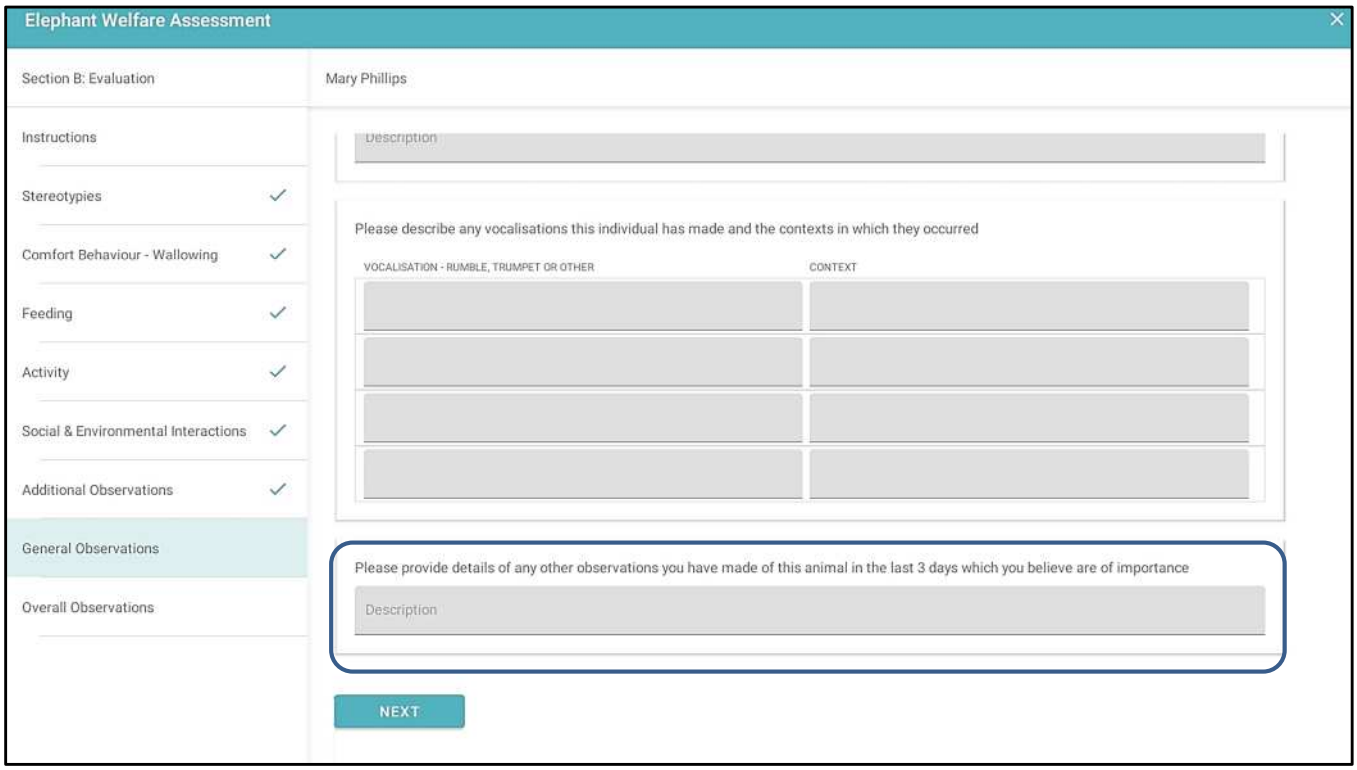


And once more, click on ‘next’ at the bottom of the screen, to save your answer and move onto the next screen

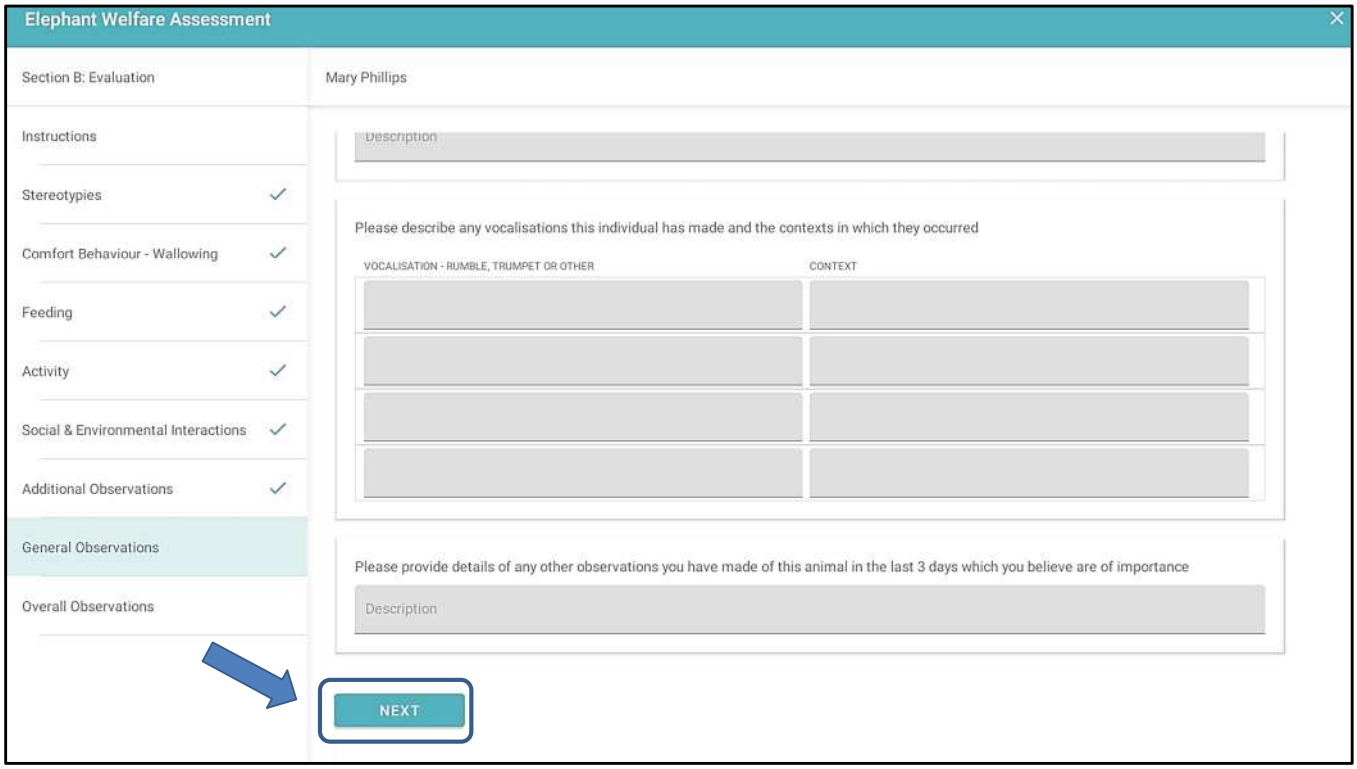


Under ‘General Observations’, there is a section asking about any vocalisations the elephant made over the past 3 days.

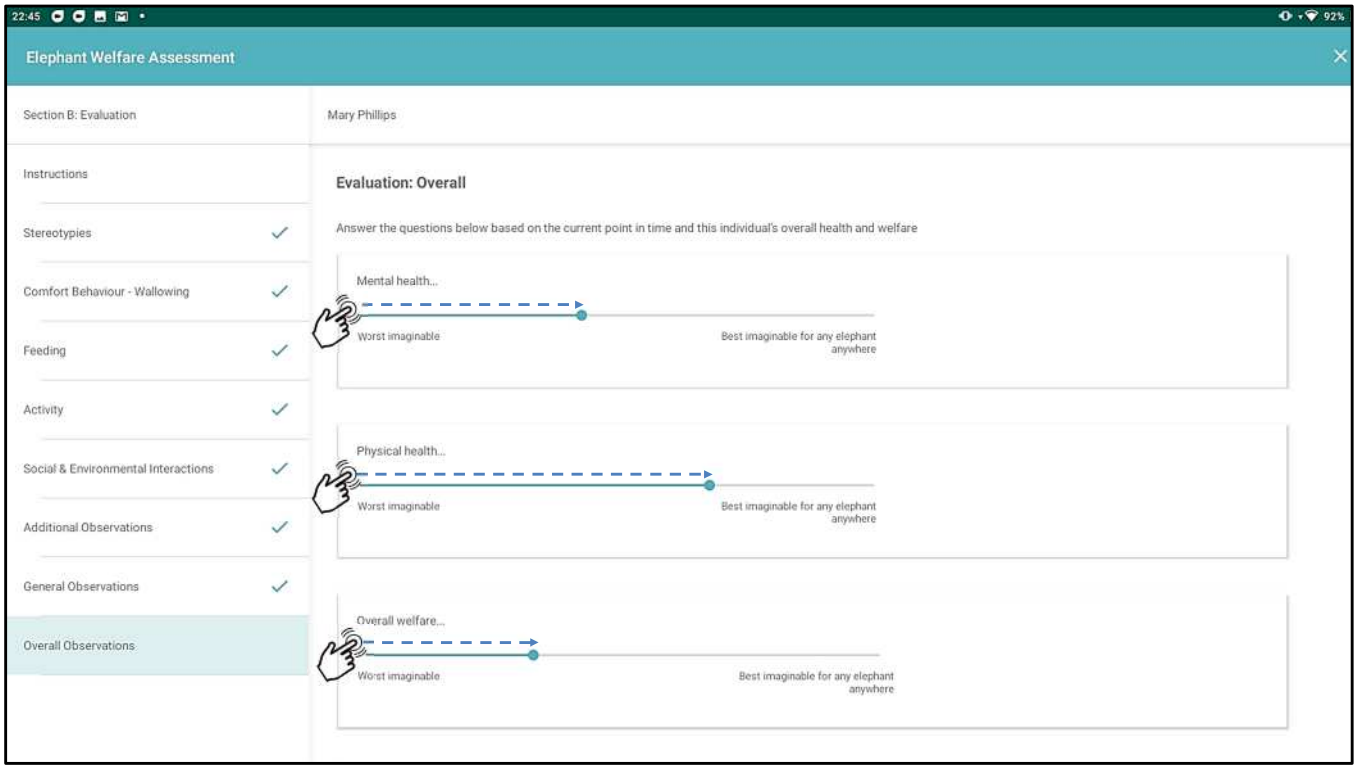
Enter details about any sound the elephant made, and what else was happening when it made that sound.



Then there is a box where you can enter anything else you observed about that elephant over the past 3 days that you think is important.



Once again, click on ‘next’ at the bottom of the screen, to save your answer and move onto the next screen

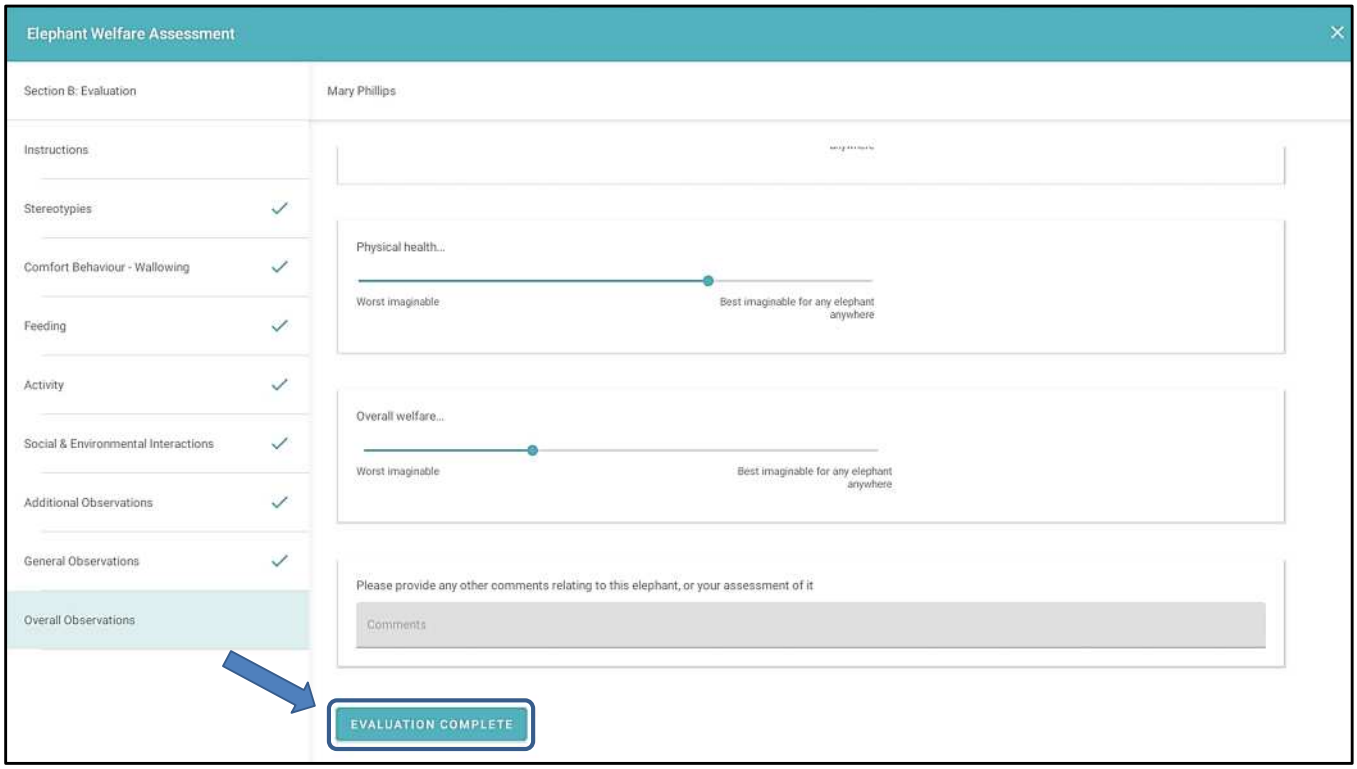


In the section for 'Overall Observations', you are asked to evaluate the mental health, the physical health, and the overall welfare of that elephant, for the 3 days you just observed it.

For each of these categories, use the sliding scale below each of these questions;

On the left hand side of the scale for each category is the worst imaginable, and on the righthand side of the scale is the best imaginable, for any elephant anywhere in the world.
Click on the slider on the left, and drag it to the place that describes how good you think the elephant's welfare is, for

each of these three categories.



When you have finished these ratings, click on the green ‘evaluation complete’ button, to finish off the data collection for Section B.

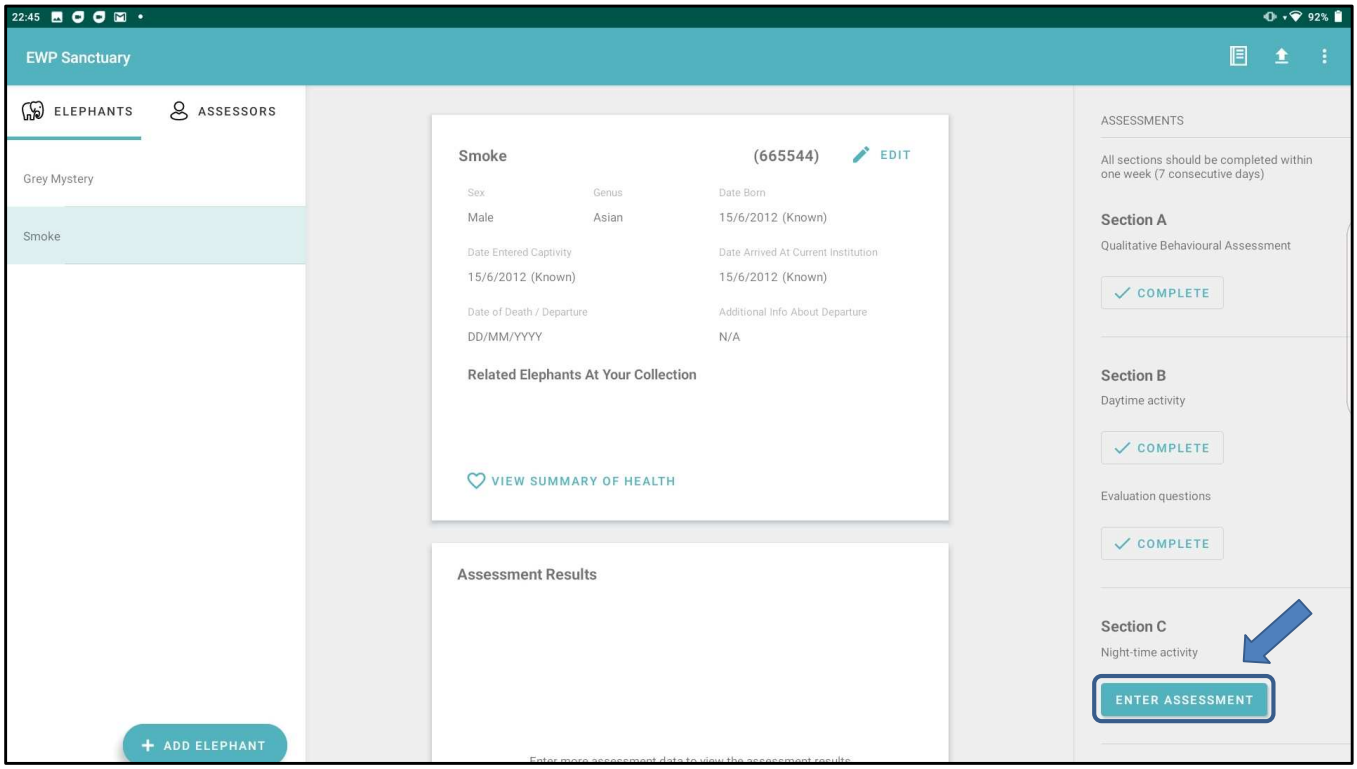
Section C –
Night-time observations

Review one night of footage

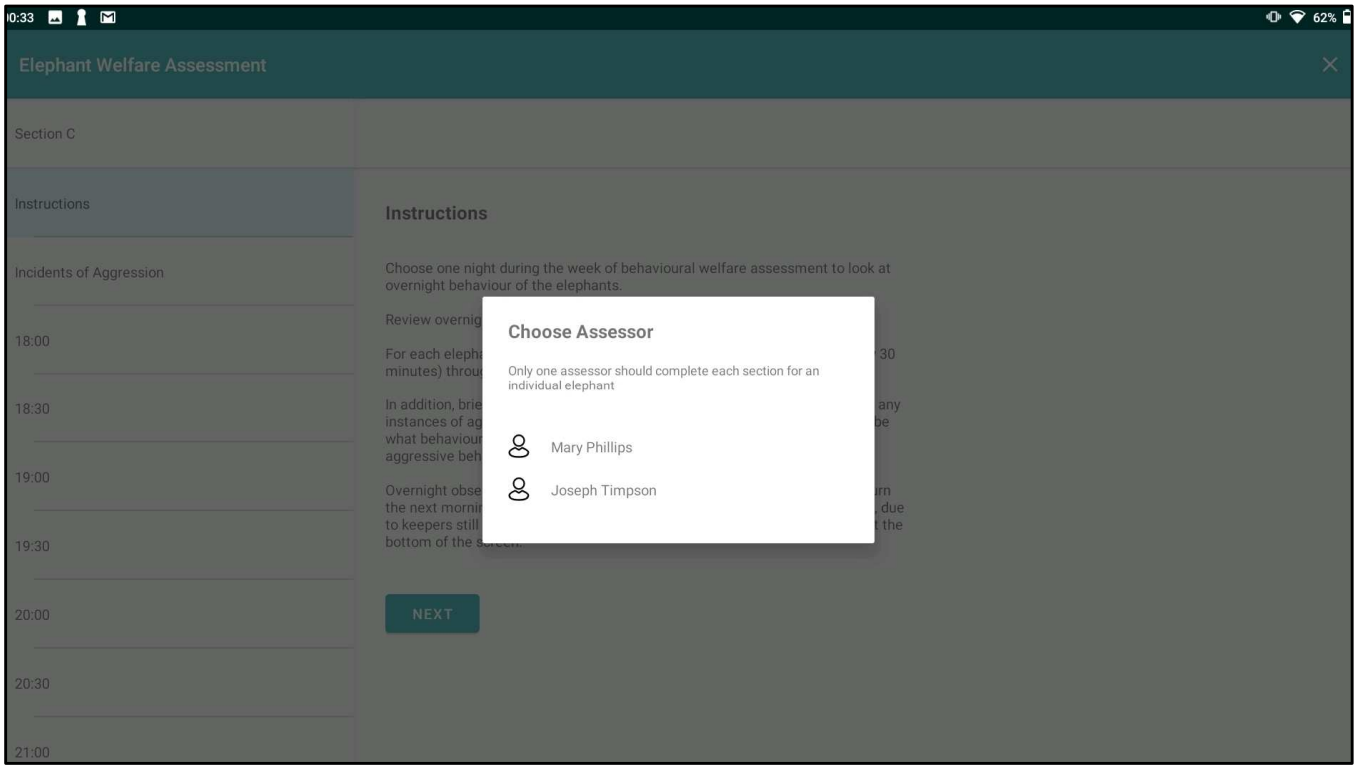
(or make live observations at night)

In this part of the video, you will learn how to complete Section C, Night Time Observations. To complete this section, you need to collect overnight behavioural observations of your elephant.

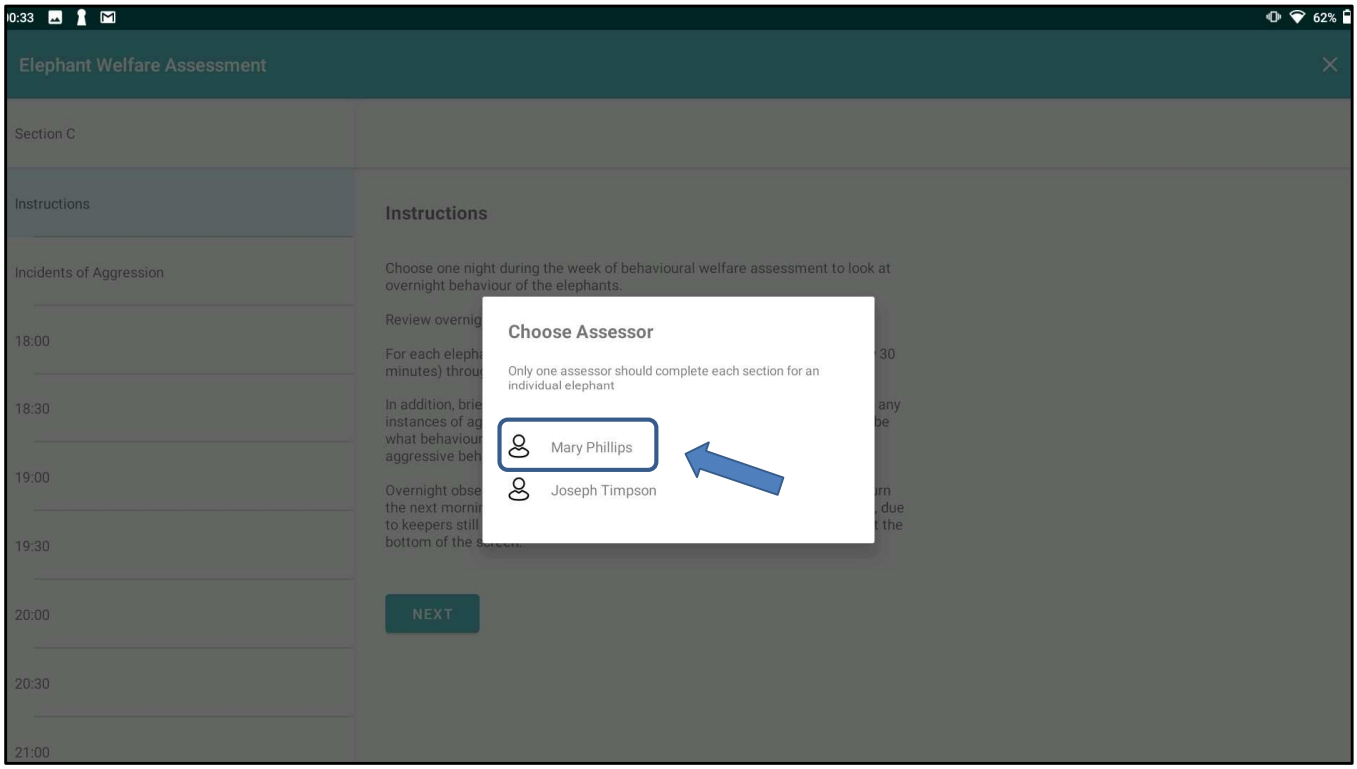
You can do by this using video footage if you have a video camera recording your elephants overnight, or this can be done by someone making live observations of the elephant overnight.



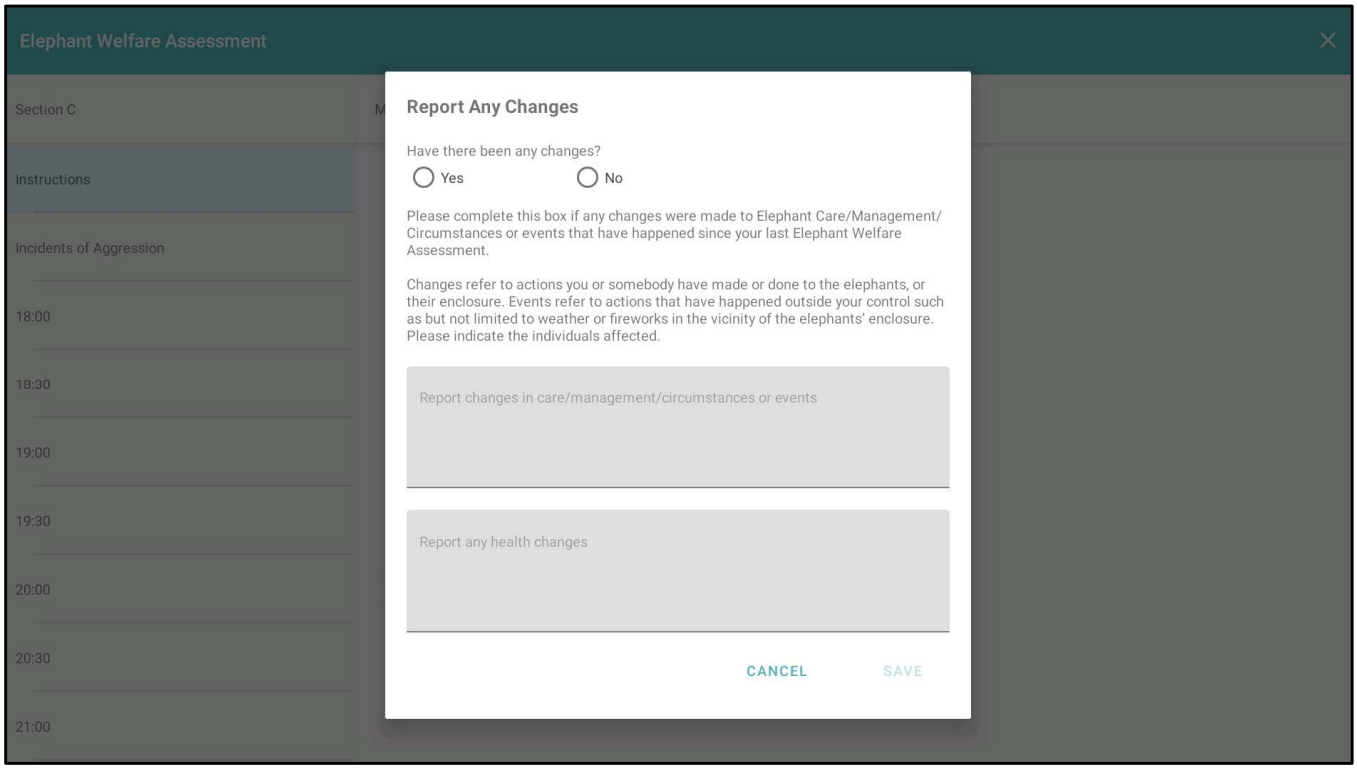
To enter Section C, go to the home screen of the app. In the right hand pane, select the green ‘Enter Assessment’ button under Section C



You will then see a popup screen listing all of the assessors you have registered at your facility



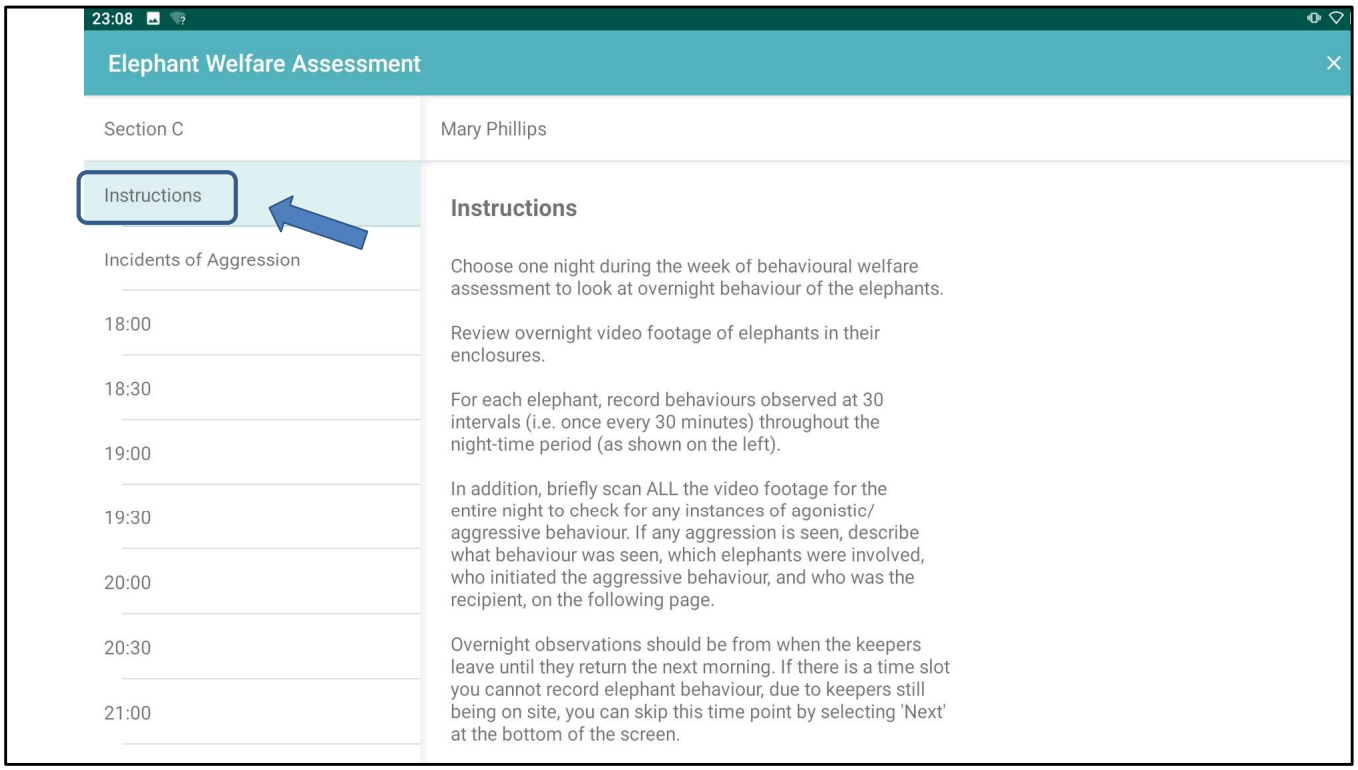
Click on the name of the person doing the current assessment



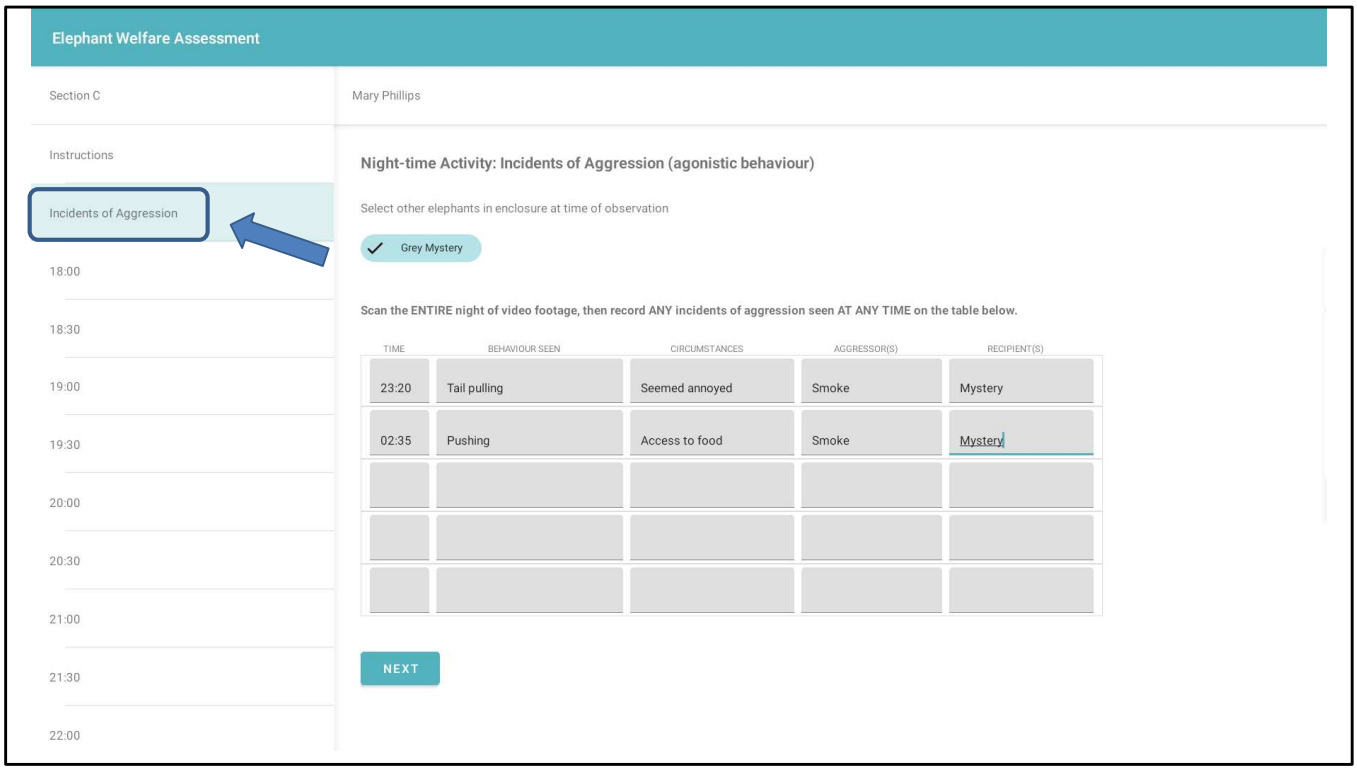
Next you will see a popup screen asking if there have been any changes to that elephant's health, facility, management or social group

If you have already provided information on changes in one of the other sections, you can select 'no' on this screen, and the information you previously submitted will be transferred across from the other sections.

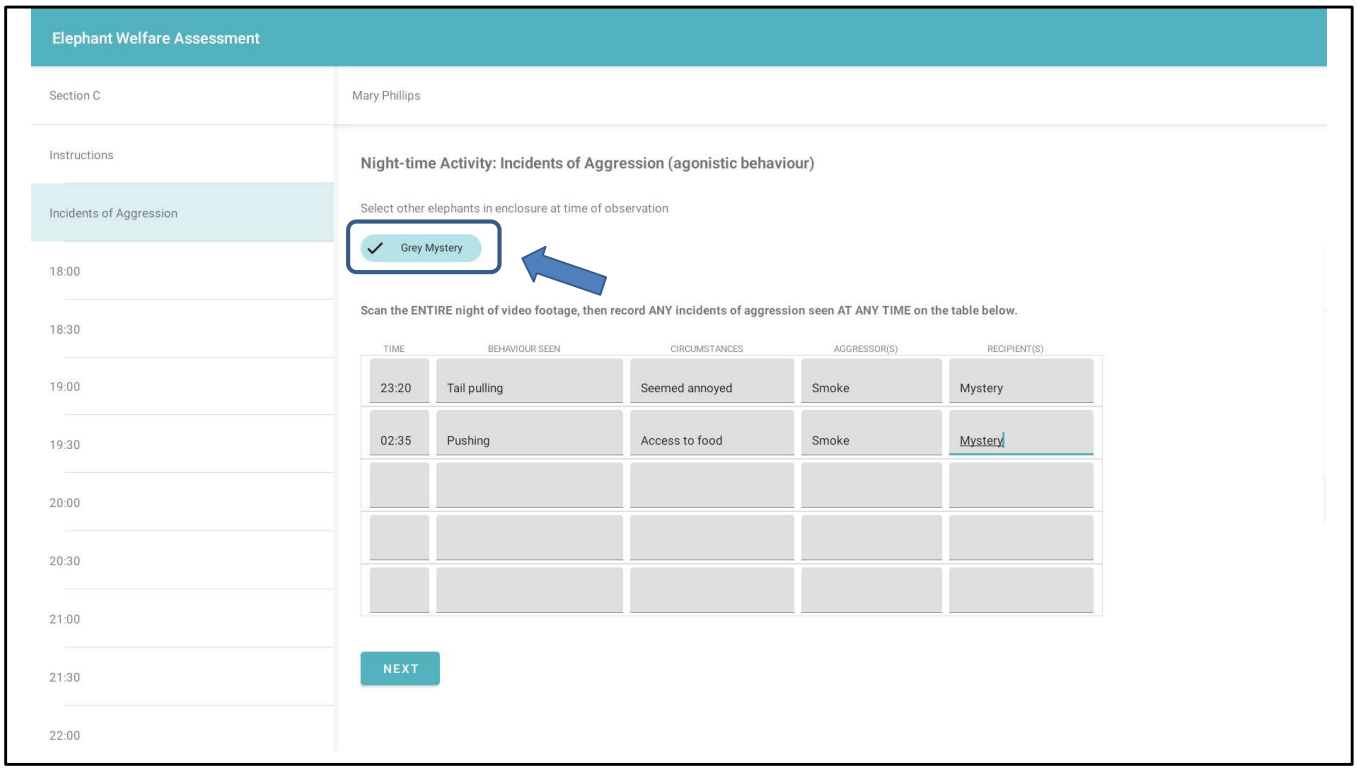
Otherwise, please provide information on any changes in health, enclosure, management or social group that you think might have affected that elephant's behaviour.



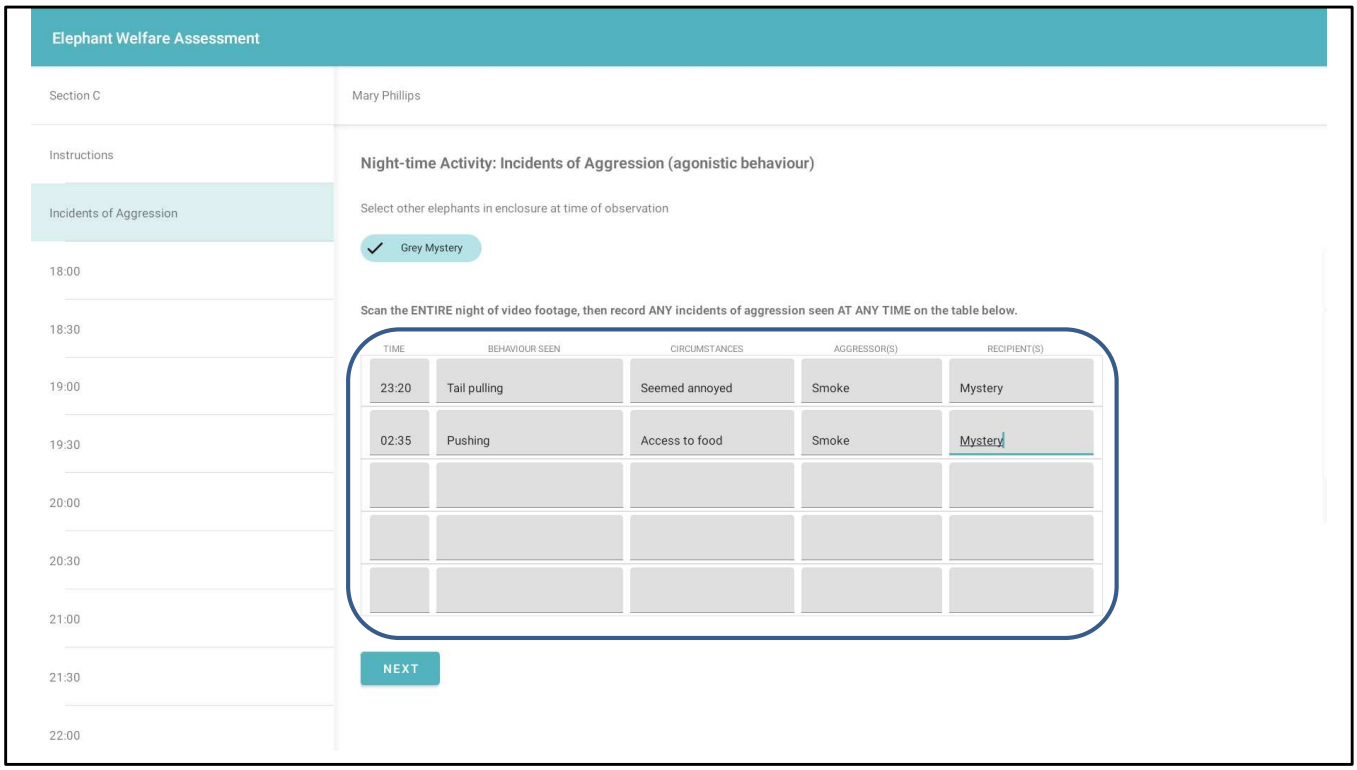
in the lefthand panel, the first item you can click on is ‘instructions’. This will give you a short summary of how to complete that section of the tool. If you need more detail, you can refer to the app handbook, which you can view either on your tablet, or online at the EWP website, (www.elephantwelfareproject.org)



Next you will see a section called ‘Incidents of Aggression’

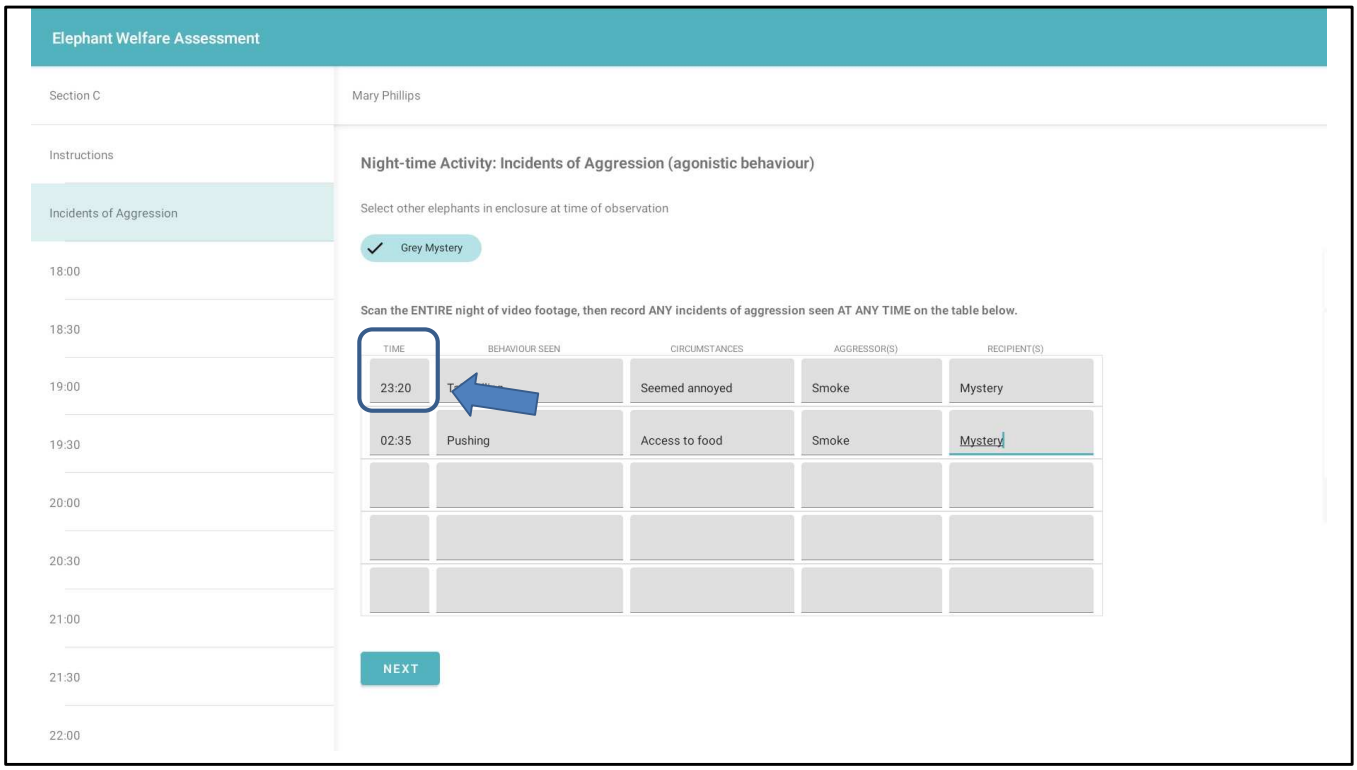


In the main pane, click on the other elephants in the enclosure at the time of observation.

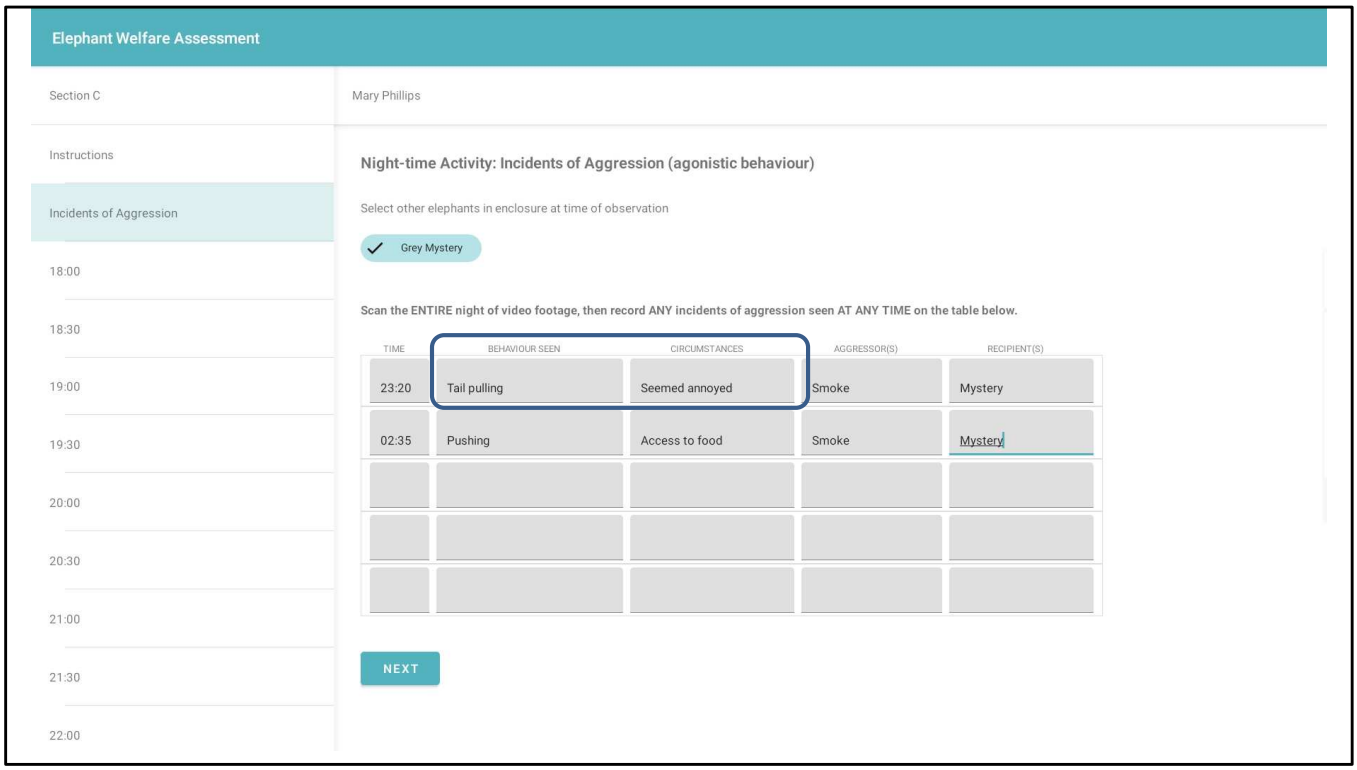


If you are using a video recording, you can quickly scan the entire night of video footage. Any time you see any aggressive behaviour, stop the video, and record the details on the table.

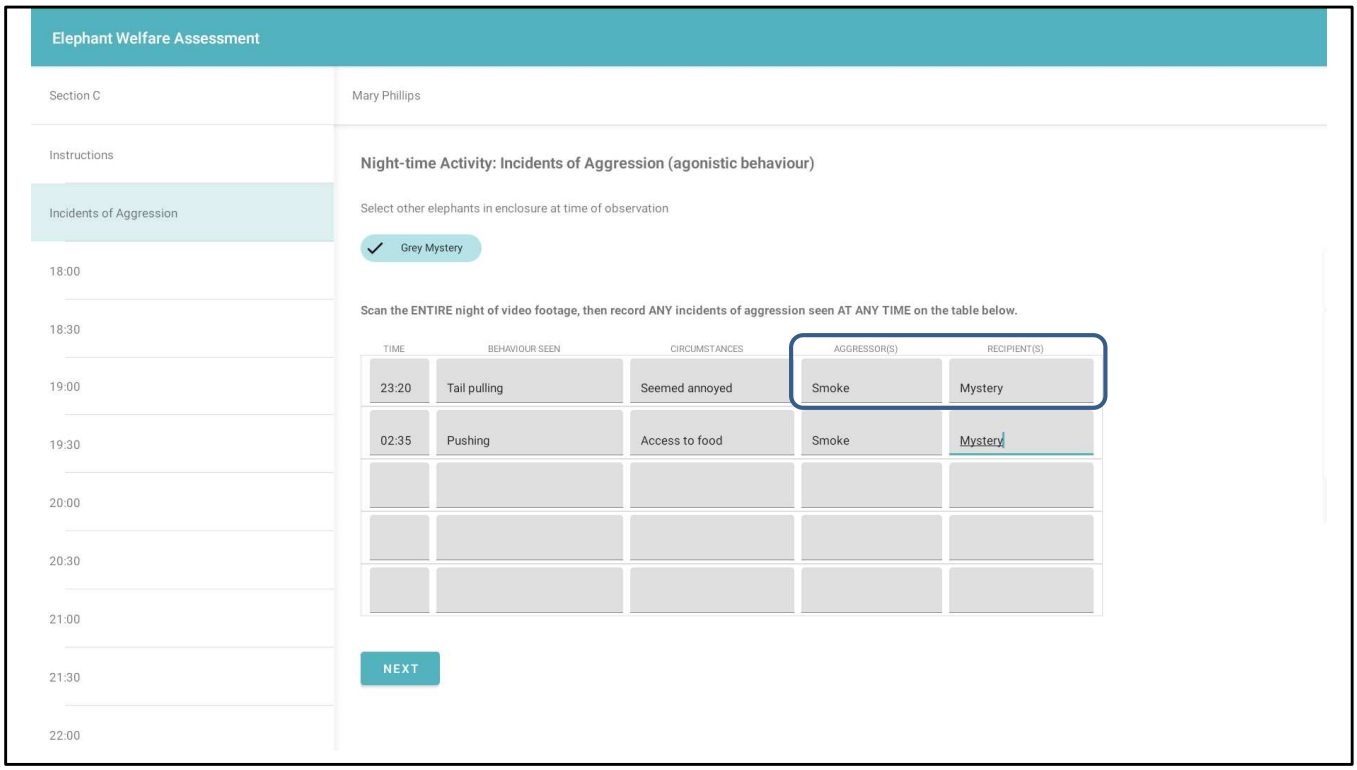
If you are observing the elephants live, you will need to make a note any time you see any aggressive behaviour. you can just make a separate note of this on a piece of paper while you are observing the elephants, and then copy this information onto the tablet at the end of your night of observation



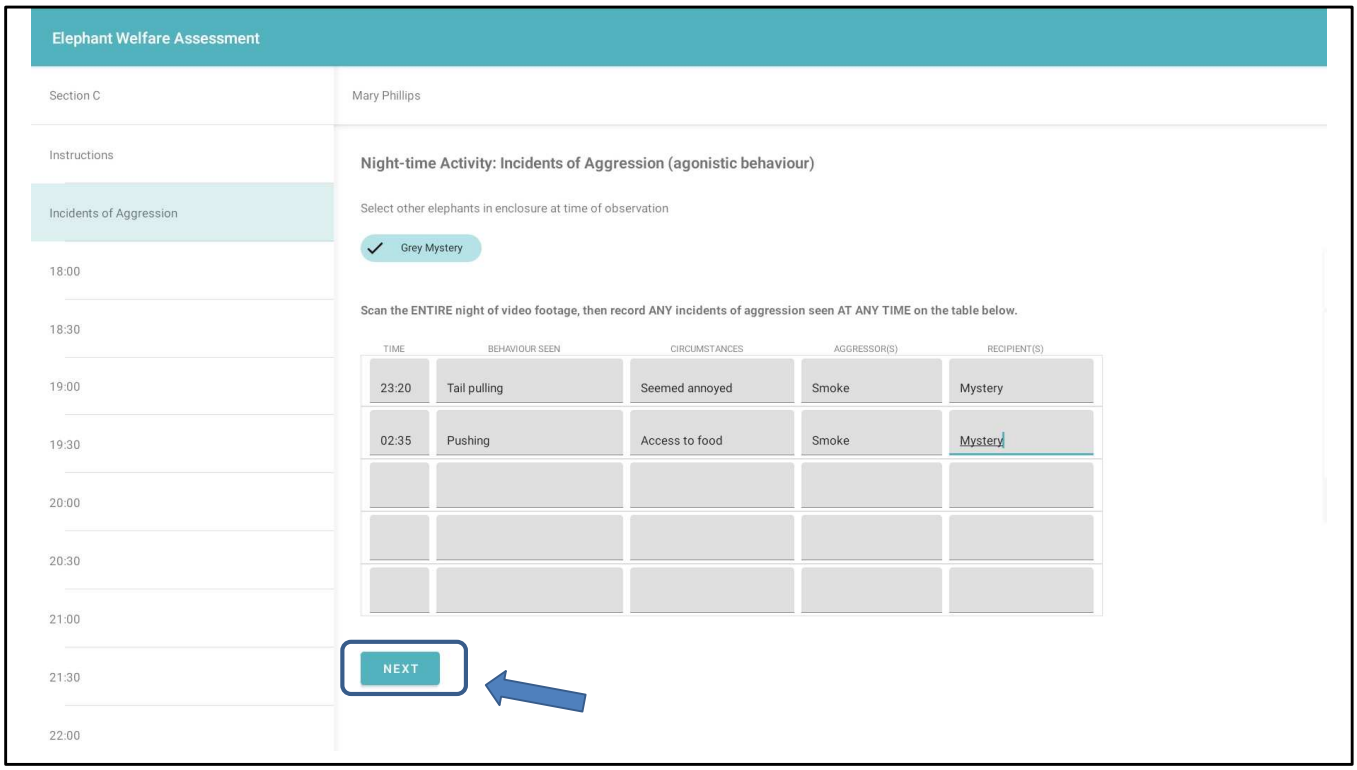
First, note the time of the incident



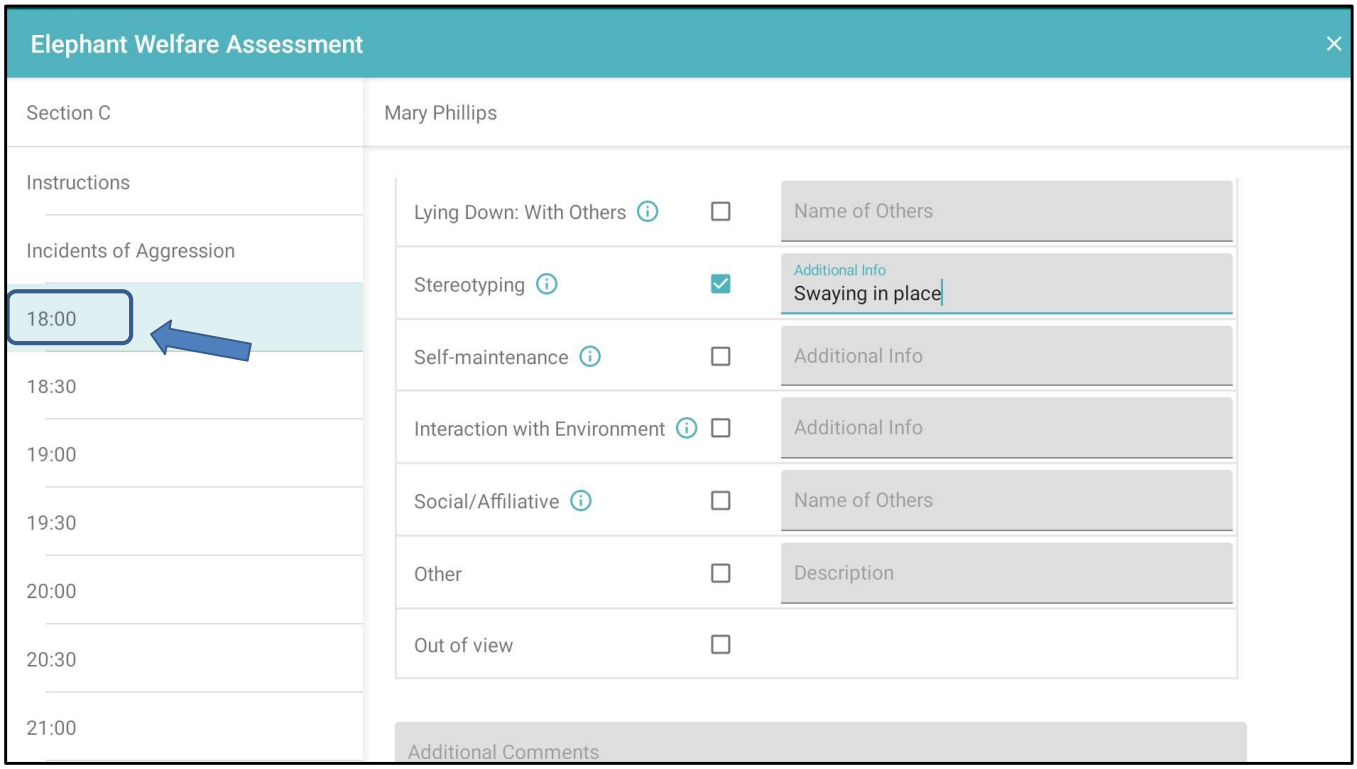
Then, describe the aggressive behaviour that you saw, and the circumstances – what was happening at the time, and why you think this may have happened



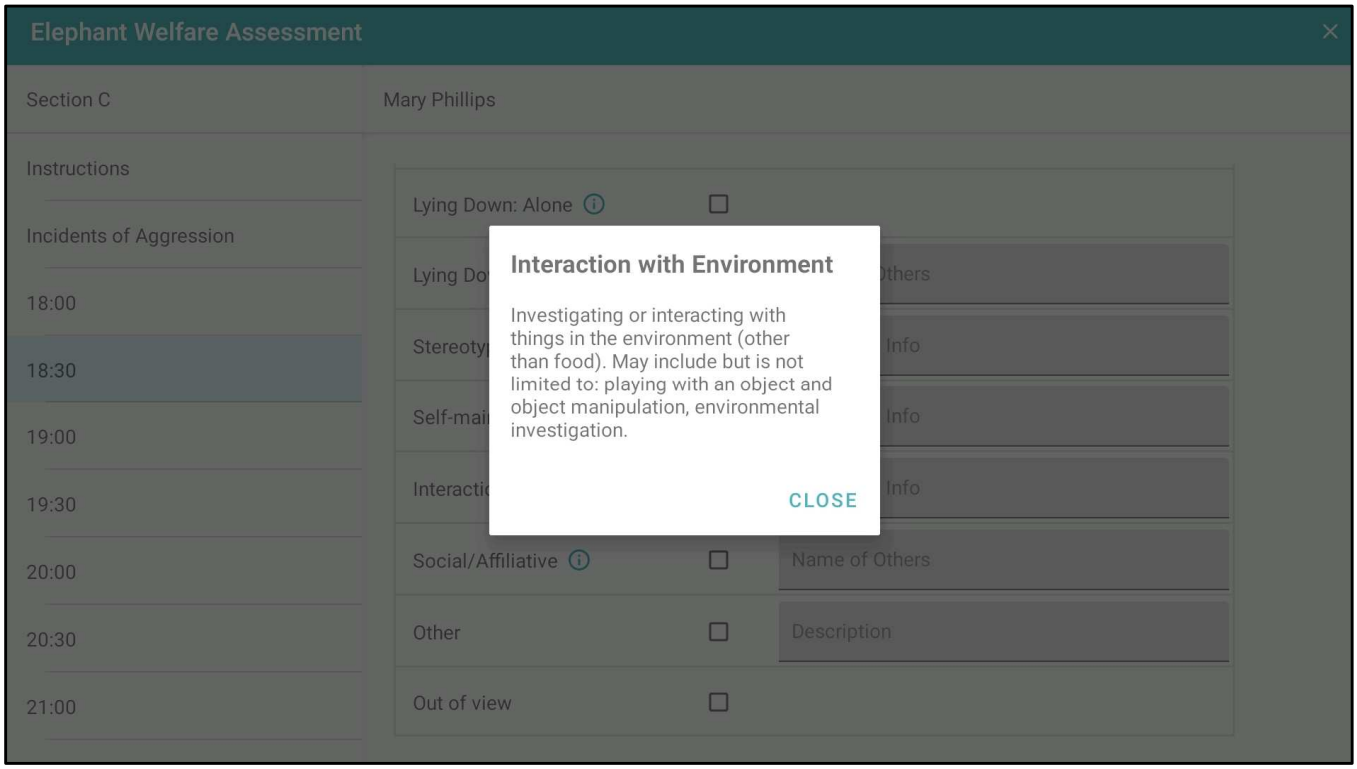
Then note who was the animal being aggressive, the aggressor, and who was the animal receiving the aggression



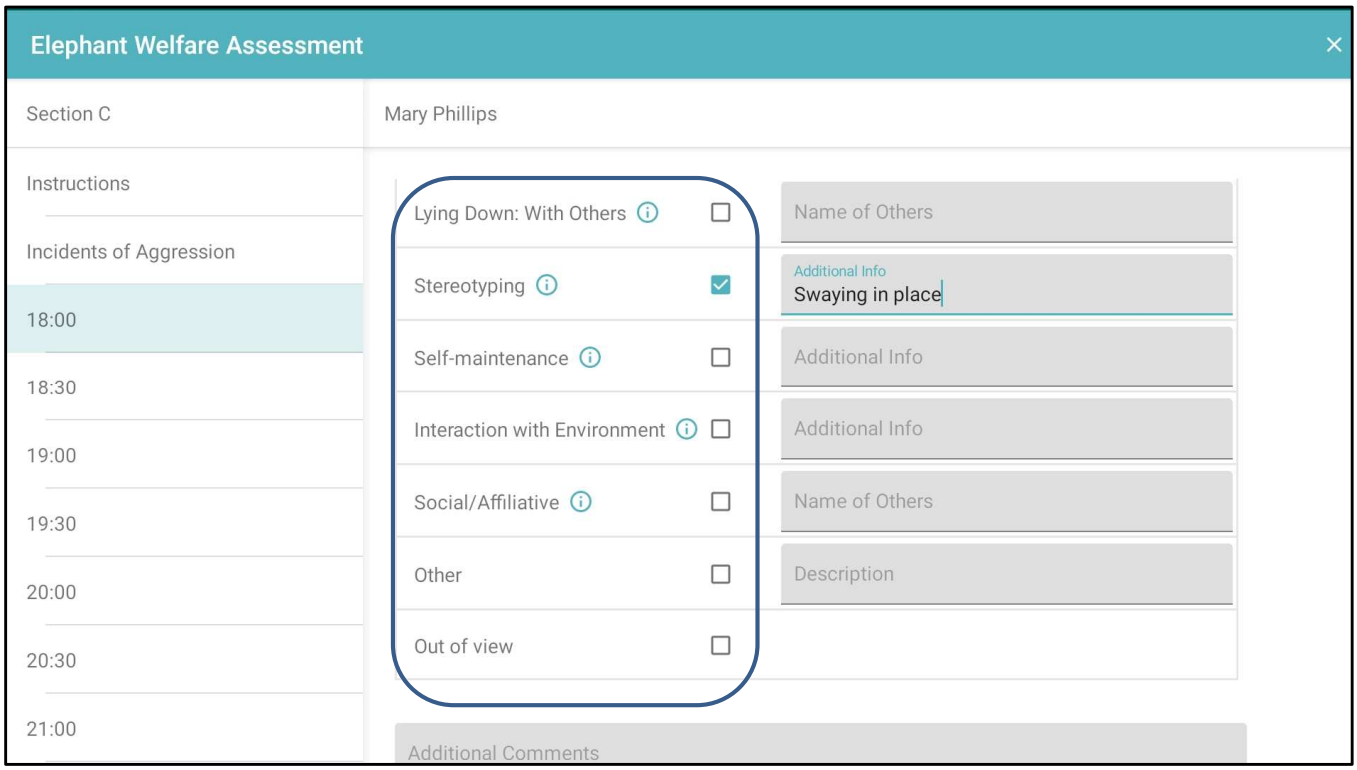
When you have finished entering all the aggressive behaviours seen throughout the night, click on the green ‘next’ button at the bottom of the main pane



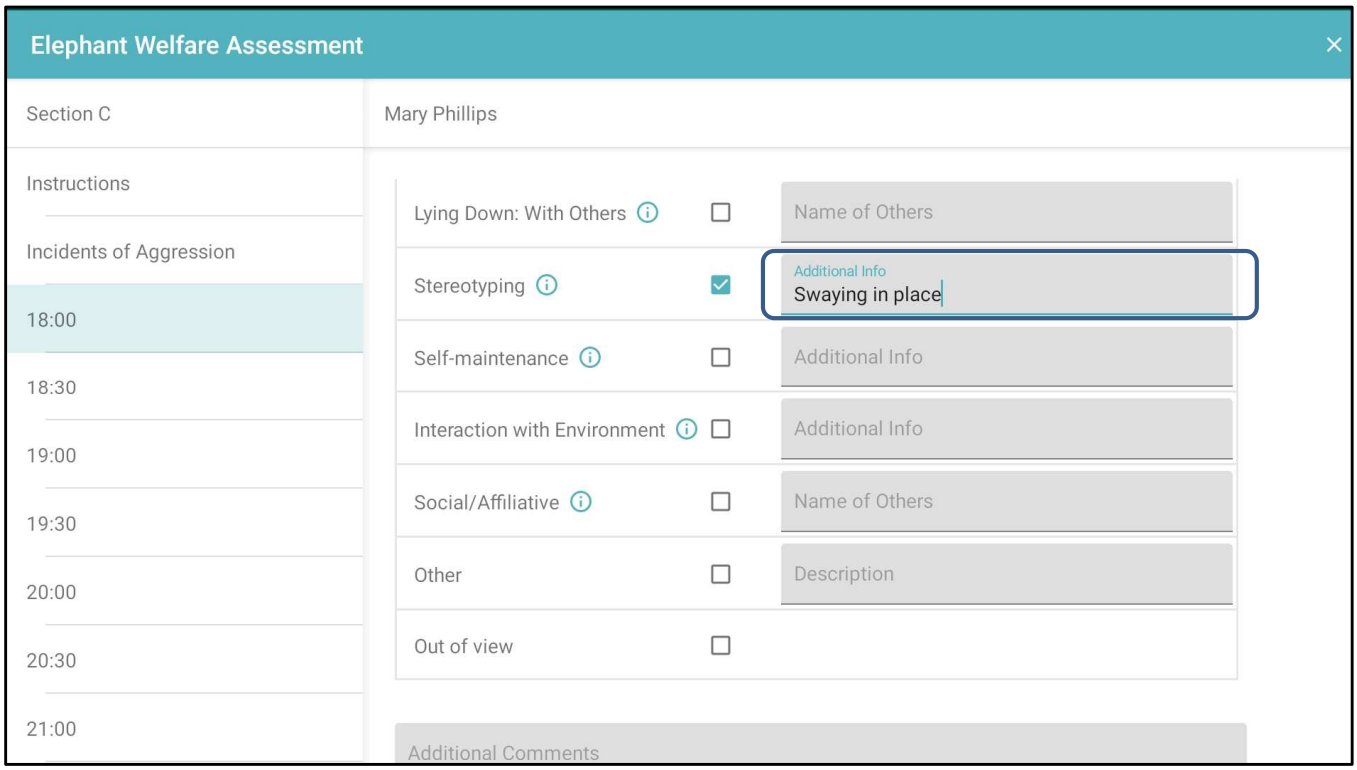
The app will automatically advance to the next line, where you must enter the behaviour seen at 18:00, or 6pm.



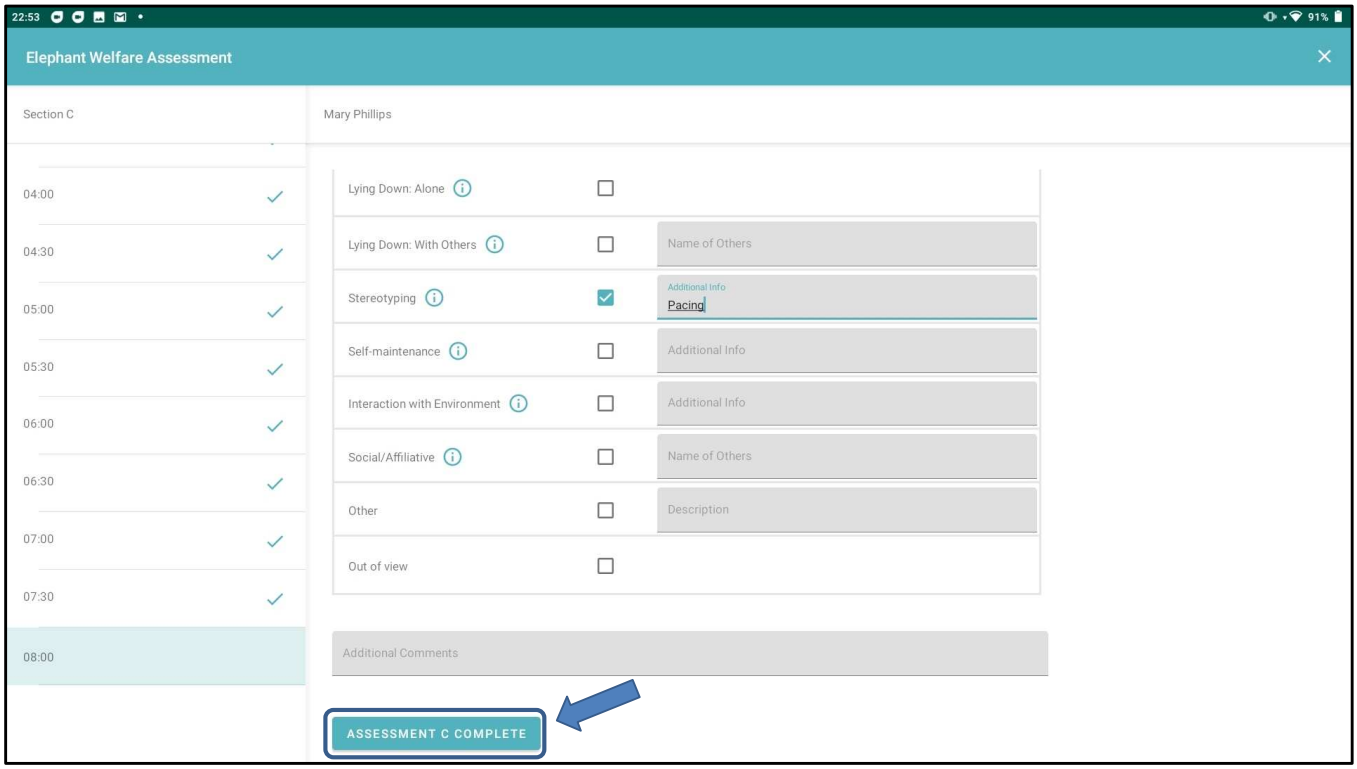
For any of the behaviours listed, you can click on the ‘i’ button, and you’ll see a popup window with the definition that we are using for that behaviour



In the main pane, click on the box to the right of the behaviour you saw the elephant performing at that time



If there is a grey box to the right of that behaviour, enter any of the details requested



Every 30 minutes, throughout the night, you must record the elephant's behaviour. So for example, you would record behaviour at 8pm, 8:30pm, 9 o'clock, and so on, for the rest of the night.

Once you have entered the observation for the last time listed on the app, which is 8 o'clock in the morning, then click the green 'Assessment C complete' button at the bottom of the screen, to save all your data.

Time to complete an assessment = 3 days

Three days total

A. One day (daytime)
B. Three days (daytime)
C. One night (overnight)

Overall, it will take you three days to complete one assessment on an elephant.

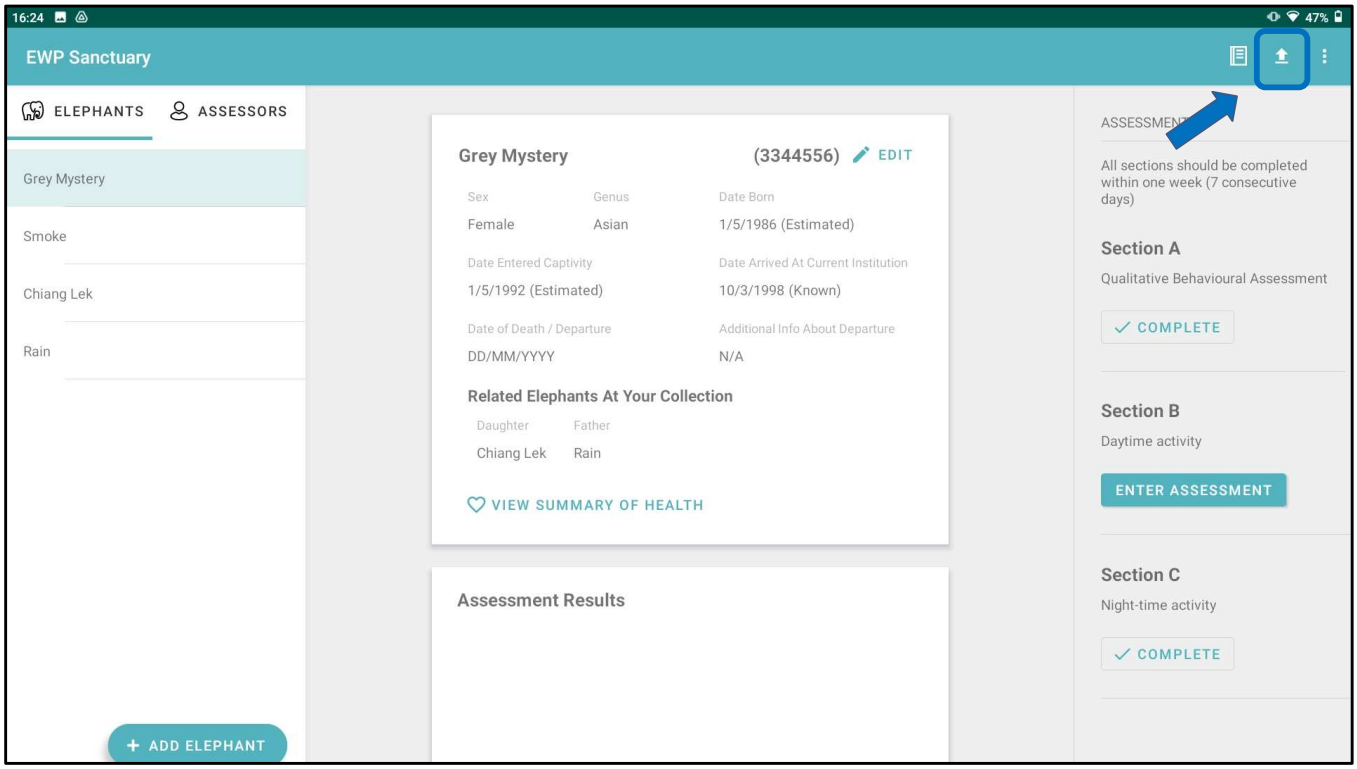
The four daytime QBA observations for section A could be done on the same day as one of the Section B daytime behavioural observations, you'll just need to collect them at slightly different times, maybe a few minutes apart.

And the overnight observations for Section C can be done some time during the 3 days when you are making daytime observations.

Finally

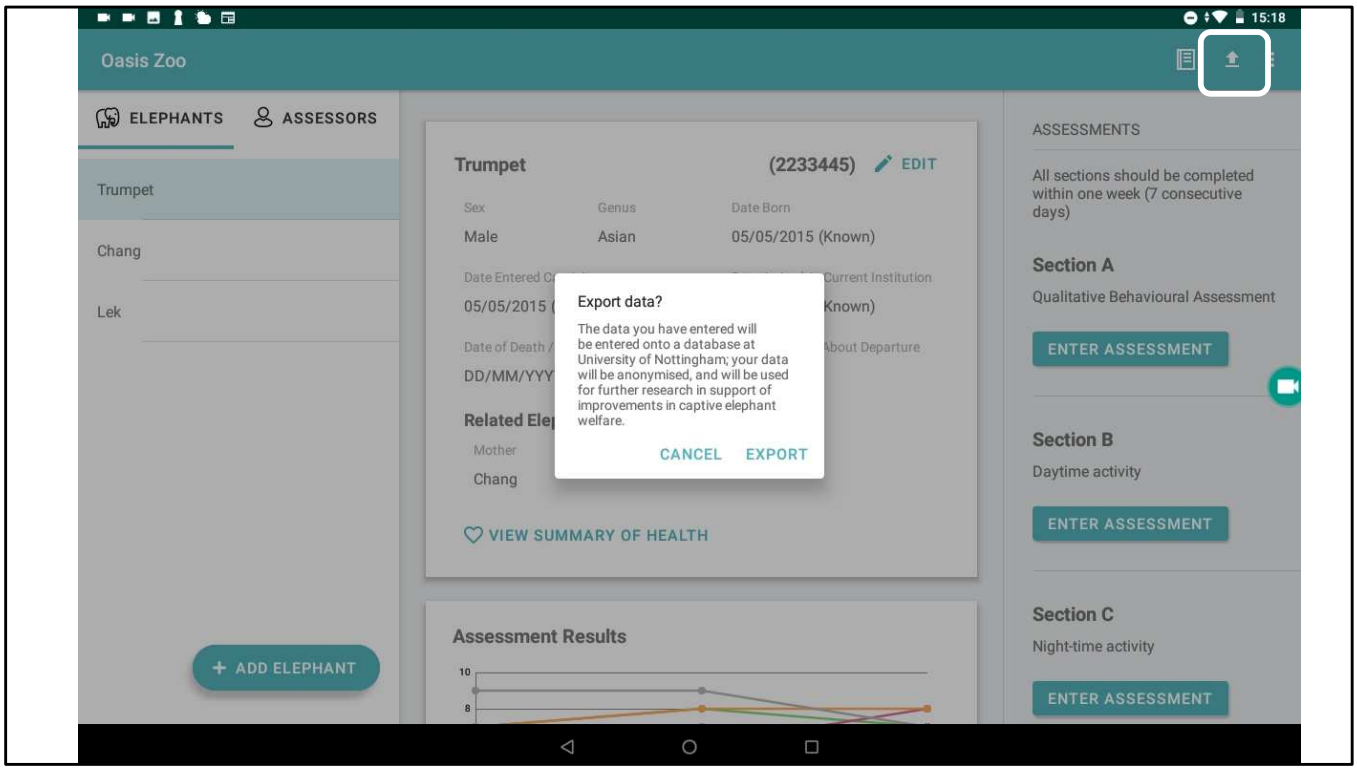
Export your data to receive your detailed elephant report.

Once you have completed all three sections of the tool, you can submit your data, and you will automatically receive an email with a detailed report on your elephant's behaviour.



From the home screen, click on the export icon in the top right corner of the screen. This icon looks like a horizontal line with an arrow pointing up.

You must be connected to the internet to be able to export your data.



You will then see a pop up box asking you for confirmation. If you agree with the terms, click on ‘export’ and your data will be uploaded.

Your report of your elephant’s results will be sent to the registered user’s email within minutes

We hope that this information has helped you to use our elephant welfare tool app, but if you have any questions, please contact us at EWP@nottingham.ac.uk

Elephant Welfare Project

www.elephantwelfareproject.org

Donate: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/elephant-welfare-project

Photo credit: Bill Attwell

Please support our work

Donate

We think it's essential that we provide this app free of charge, so that any facility anywhere in the world that has elephants is able to use it.

But in order to be able to do this, we urgently need your support. If your facility can possibly afford to do so, please donate to support our project. Visit our website at elephantwelfareproject.org, and click on the 'Donate' button, or visit our JustGiving page using the link on this page.

Even if you can't afford to support us right now, please share our website and social media links with your colleagues, your family and your friends, to spread the

news about our work. Thank you in advance for your support.