



Preparing Australian Communities Program - Local

Evidence

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) and the Australian Climate Service (ACS) have developed and prepared this document to provide useful hints and tips to help you prepare a grant application for your proposed project under the Preparing Australian Communities Program for projects of local significance (PACP Local).

This document offers general advice on evidence that you can use to address the assessment criteria. It should be read in conjunction with the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Guidelines) and FAQs for PACP Local provided at business.gov.au/PACPL. This document does not revoke, replace or amend the Guidelines.

The Guidelines include all the information you need to apply. They detail all the requirements you and your project will need to meet.

Supporting your Application with strong evidence

When applying for funding under the PACP Local, it is important to make sure your application incorporates strong, credible evidence. Strong evidence can help you to:

- demonstrate your organisation's capabilities;
- demonstrate your linkages within a community;
- emphasise the scale or importance of an issue; and
- strengthen an argument for your project by demonstrating its past or projected performance.

There are different types of evidence you can use to effectively support your application.

Sources of evidence

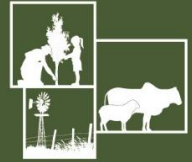
In preparing your application you should consider drawing on a range of evidence sources to support your case for funding.

We encourage you to describe any relevant evidence in the body of your response in the application form. You should only attach documents to your application that we request. **We will not consider information in attachments that we have not requested.**

Types of evidence

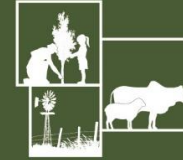
There are five basic categories of evidence – quantitative evidence, qualitative evidence, evaluations, expert evidence and anecdotal evidence. The table below discusses each of these types of evidence.





Evidence Type	Examples of this type of evidence
<p>Quantitative evidence is numerical. It can be counted or measured objectively</p>	<p>You might consider the following potential sources of quantitative evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data from your own records and experiences (e.g. annual reports or surveys); • data available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Climate Services or Climate Change in Australia; • program or service evaluations, reports released by research bodies, government departments, or not-for-profit organisations; or • the climate change sources cited above.
<p>Qualitative evidence is less numerical. It describes or explains, or even tells a story</p>	<p>It may be appropriate to include qualitative evidence about, for example, the strategies your organisation has in place to ensure ongoing delivery of services against outcomes or about the methods your organisation employs to undertake needs analysis or engage with the community when planning or providing services.</p> <p>You might consider the following potential sources of qualitative evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • needs analyses or expert advice; • interviews – conducted by your own organisation or another – with clients or subject experts, with a focus on benefits of project to the local community; • content from broadcast or social media; and/or • public meetings.
<p>Evaluations provide quantitative and qualitative information on the effectiveness of current services or programs</p>	<p>Applications would benefit from evaluation style evidence on the previous and current outcomes achieved by current/similar services and programs you have delivered or had involvement in delivering. For example, an evaluation of a similar project that your organisation previously, or is in the process of delivering.</p>
<p>Expert evidence is based on research and expert opinions</p>	<p>You can use expert evidence to supplement and strengthen other forms of evidence, for example to demonstrate how your project will reduce disaster risk attributed to climate change.</p>
<p>Anecdotal evidence is based on opinion</p>	<p>Anecdotal evidence should not be used on its own as evidence but may be useful supporting evidence.</p> <p>People's (or more broadly, community) opinions can be valuable inputs into the planning process, particularly when developing new ideas. You may wish to seek a range of different opinions to support your proposal.</p>





Using evidence effectively

Tip	Example of ineffective evidence	Example of effective evidence
Be clear and concise: Use clear and concise language to express your evidence. This will help produce a logical and professional application.	The bushfires in 2006 were really damaging, as were those in 2009, and there have been even more since then, which definitely highlights that emergency management is really important.	The 13 incidences of bushfires rated at a critical level by Emergency Management Australia since 2006 demonstrates the importance of effective emergency management.
Be accurate: Avoid emotive language. The most persuasive applications state their evidence objectively and dispassionately.	The issue of tropical cyclones is destroying our community.	In a study undertaken by CSIRO and BOM in <i>[insert year or other specific detail of the study]</i> , it was identified that climate change was impacting the frequency and severity of tropical cyclones. Cyclones have had significant impacts on our community to date, with the most recent – Tropical Cyclone Seroja – damaging 70% of the structures in our community.
Be relevant: Ensuring your evidence is clearly relevant is just as important as expressing your evidence in clear language.	In the past we have successfully delivered similar projects with our project partner.	In the past we delivered <i>[name the project(s) that are relevant to your project, and how you delivered the project and how the project is similar to the project in your application]</i> which demonstrates our ability to <i>[relate your experience to the assessment criteria]</i>
Remain current: Old evidence is less persuasive than new. Use the most up-to-date evidence you can find and, if you do use older evidence, explain why.	A study conducted in 2001 showed that older members of our community were particularly vulnerable to the impacts of bushfires.	A study in 2020 showed that older members of our community were particularly vulnerable to the impacts of bushfires.





<p>Attribute your evidence: Your evidence will be more persuasive if you attribute it clearly in your application. This includes both quantitative and qualitative evidence. Remember to cite data as well as ideas and direct quotes from interviews, surveys and media</p>	<p>Experts recognise that climate change is attributable to increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.</p>	<p>The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Atlas of Global and Regional Projections indicates that there is a high confidence of increase in fire weather across Australia.</p>
<p>Use both qualitative and quantitative evidence: Both offer distinct advantages. Quantitative evidence provides breadth, and can be used to compare large numbers, however, qualitative evidence is often deeper and richer. For this reason, it is best to use a combination of both.</p>	<p>Average temperatures will continue to increase in all seasons.</p>	<p>The State of the Climate Report, developed by CSIRO and BOM, notes that Australia's climate has warmed on average by 1.44 degrees since 1910, leading to an increase in the frequency of extreme heat events.</p>

