



Australian Government
The Treasury

Australian
Centre for
Evaluation

ace

Australian Centre for Evaluation

*Putting evaluation evidence at the heart of
policy design and decision-making*

evaluation.treasury.gov.au

Information Pack for
Place-based Impact Summit | 15 & 16 June 2026

Acknowledgment of Country



The Australian Centre for Evaluation was established in 2023 to put evaluation at the heart of policy design and decision-making



ACE aims improve the volume, quality and use of evaluation evidence to support better policy and programs



Our vision: Evaluation evidence supports better policy and programs to improve the lives of Australians.

Our mission: We help put evaluation evidence at the heart of policy design and decision-making by:

- improving the volume, quality, and use of evaluation evidence
- embedding a culture of evaluation across the Australian government

ACE champions high-quality impact evaluation, builds evaluation capability and embeds evaluation in systems and processes



ACE works with evaluation units across the Australian Government and evaluation partners through a hub and spoke model



The Commonwealth Evaluation Policy aims to embed a culture of evaluation and learning

All evaluations need to be:



Fit for purpose



Useful



Robust, ethical, and culturally appropriate



Credible



Transparent

Resources to support leading practice are on the ACE website

Australian Centre for Evaluation

The Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE) was established to help put evaluation evidence at the heart of policy design and decision-making.

We seek to improve the volume, quality, and use of evaluation evidence to support better policy and programs that improve the lives of Australians.

Commonwealth Evaluation Policy

Aims to embed good evaluation principles and practices across government and foster an evaluative culture that supports continuous learning about what works, why, and for whom.

ACE Evaluation Library

Hosts a collection of evaluation reports from across the Commonwealth.

Evaluation toolkit



What is evaluation

Assess the design, implementation or results of programs and activities to support continuous improvement, accountability and decision-making

[→](#)



Why evaluate

Plan how to evaluate programs and activities early to meet relevant policy and legislative requirements

[→](#)



When to evaluate

Identify and prioritise the timing and type of evaluation needed at different stages of the policy cycle using risk-based approaches

[→](#)

Tools and resources



Commonwealth Evaluation Maturity Model

The online assessment tool provides a framework for agencies to assess evaluation skills, practices and resources at an agency, group, division or branch level.

[→](#)



Templates, tools and resources

Comprehensive set of templates, tools and resources to help you plan and conduct an evaluation

[→](#)



Evaluation planning for new policy proposals

Consider and determine fit for purpose evaluation, monitoring and learning plans for New Policy Proposals (NPPs)

[→](#)

ACE worked with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services on an APS Place-based Evaluation Guide (coming soon)



More information: [Supporting community change | Department of Social Services](#)

The APS Place-based Evaluation Guide highlights skills and knowledge APS staff need to evaluate place-based work

The Guide complements new resources to help build APS capability to work with partners to evaluate place-based work.

- **Audience and purpose** –for APS staff planning, commissioning, conducting or using evaluations of place-based work
- **What makes place-based evaluation different** –highlights what is unique about place-based work including the need for strong partnerships, good governance, and methods that balance rigour and flexibility to support decision-making
- **Skills and knowledge APS staff need** – highlights the critical importance of self-reflection and understanding to work ethically, collaboratively and in a way that respects local contexts and community
- **Principles for leading evaluation practice** –identifies principles for all evaluations alongside principles specific to place-based work and First Nations evaluations. Describes how to translate these principles into leading practice.

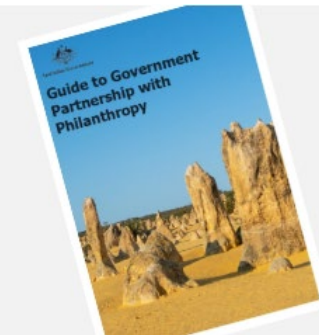
More information: [Supporting community change | Department of Social Services](#)

This guide adds to other new resources designed to help government work better with local communities

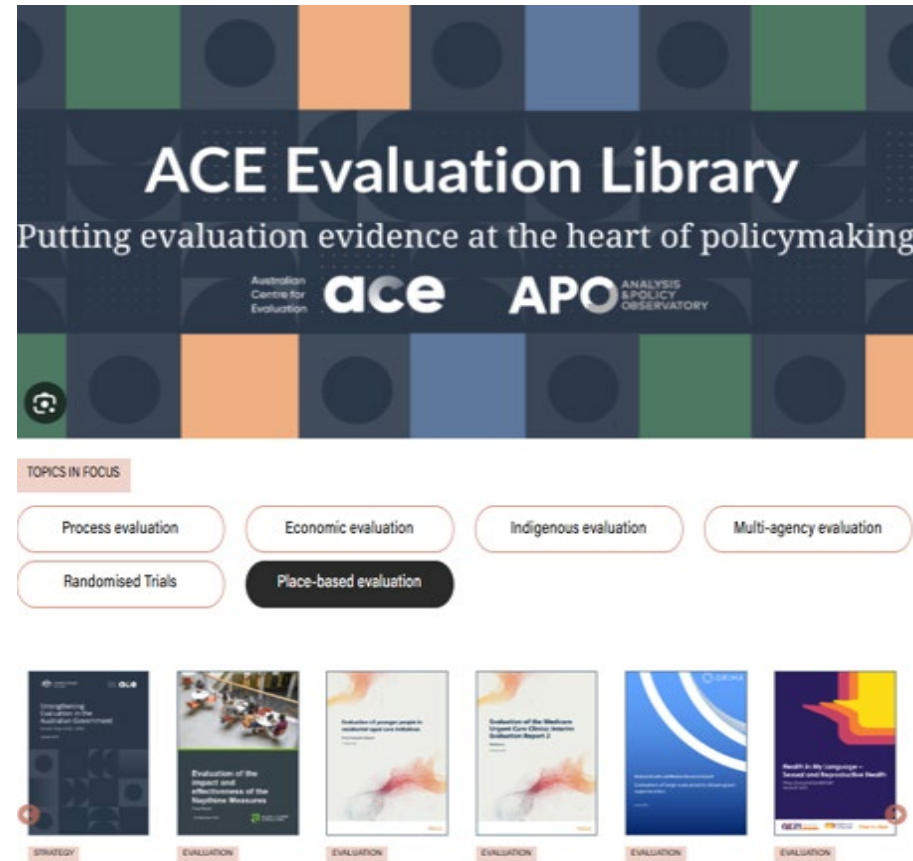
The Commonwealth Department of Social Services is leading work to support communities, governments and partners to work together to reduce disadvantage, with a focus on:

- Working together with communities
- Using data and evidence
- Partnering in different ways
- Supporting projects

Source: [Supporting community change | Department of Social Services](#)



ACE has also created a collection of place-based evaluation reports on the ACE Evaluation Library



See: [ACE Evaluation Library](#) | [APO](#)

More information is available on the websites listed below

- [Australian Centre for Evaluation | evaluation.treasury.gov.au](https://evaluation.treasury.gov.au)
- [Australian Centre for Evaluation Strategy | evaluation.treasury.gov.au](https://evaluation.treasury.gov.au)
- [Commonwealth Evaluation Policy | evaluation.treasury.gov.au](https://evaluation.treasury.gov.au)
- [Commonwealth Evaluation Toolkit | evaluation.treasury.gov.au](https://evaluation.treasury.gov.au)
- [Templates, tools and resources | evaluation.treasury.gov.au](https://evaluation.treasury.gov.au)
- [ACE Evaluation Library | evaluation.treasury.gov.au](https://evaluation.treasury.gov.au)
- [State of Evaluation in the Australian Government 2026 | evaluation.treasury.gov.au](https://evaluation.treasury.gov.au)
- [Strengthening Evaluation in the Australian Government – Action Plan 2026–2030 | evaluation.treasury.gov.au](https://evaluation.treasury.gov.au)
- [Supporting community change | Department of Social Services](https://www.dss.gov.au)

Please get in touch if you would like to connect!

Contact the ACE:

evaluation@treasury.gov.au

You can also join the Australian Public Sector Evaluation Network (APSEN)

APSEN is a free dedicated informal network to connect those working in evaluation in the public sector to share information and build capability across the membership.

APSEN is a special interest group of the Australian Evaluation Society (AES) which seeks to bring together people from across government, academia, consultancy not-for-profits and beyond!

To join use the QR code or email apsen@aes.asn.au

