

Final Report Literature Review into the Benefits of Investment in Human and Cultural Infrastructure and Services

Epic Dot Gov Pty Ltd

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1. Introduction

This report provides a literature review of the Benefits of Investment in Human and Cultural Services. The literature review was commissioned by Local Government NSW. The aims of the project include to:

1. Identify whether or not there exists a convincing connection between investment in human and cultural services and better outcomes for the community.
2. Provide evidence to support LGNSW's advocacy on the community benefits of local government investment in human and cultural services and facilities.
3. Demonstrate that early intervention through investment in human and cultural services and facilities has long term benefits for other spheres of government in terms of reduced costs for the provision of their services.
4. Identify the potential risks of not investing in community services and facilities and the consequences of long-term neglect in the provision of community infrastructure.

2. Methodology

Two strategies were adopted for compiling literature for this review. The first was a traditional scan of the literature using both internet searching as well as interrogating specialist scholarly databases. Both local and international literature was examined. The key databases were Scopus, GeoScience and Proquest. The second method involved asking NSW local government community sector staff if they could identify suitable documents for inclusion in the review. This task was managed by staff of Local Government NSW and the material forwarded to the research team. A pro-forma was completed in connection with each effective publication included in the review. Based on returns from both methods, approximately 85% of the material which is reported in the review was sourced from the first method.

3. Conceptualising the benefits of investment in human and cultural services

The first and most obvious set of benefits can be described as individual benefits, or in other words, what are the positive impacts of the investment on individuals? In addition to these individual benefits there are some society wide benefits that are met as a result of addressing broad economic and social outcomes or policy goals. These outcomes may include:

- Increasing educational outcomes
- Increasing health and well being
- Indirect benefits such as increasing employment
- Identity and creative expression
- Reducing government expenditure on health and related services.

When these society wide benefits are applicable, by definition the total social benefits exceed the sum of the individual benefits since the total social benefits also include the individual benefits.

4. Measuring outcomes

An essential component of a study which attempts to measure the benefits of investment in community services and facilities is the impact of the service on its clients and local

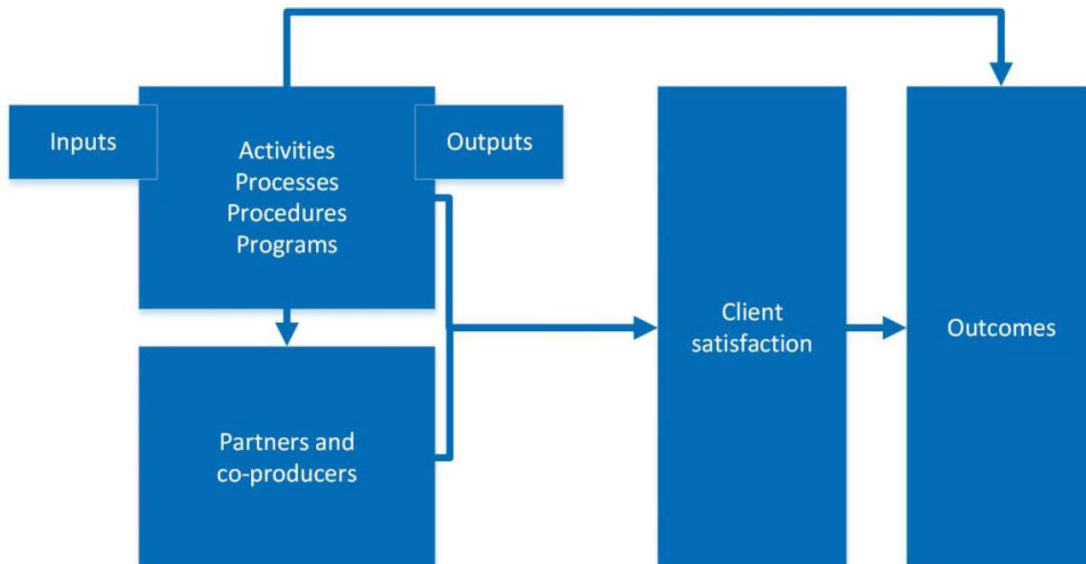
government as a provider. In other words what outcomes does the service generate? [Adams et al \(2015\)](#) provide a more concise definition:

The term ‘outcomes measurement’ refers to the measurement of the difference that an initiative, program or organisation makes to the lives of people they engage with.(page 3)

Some studies have implied benefits by simply measuring usage/visitation rates. For example in the Central West study of cultural centres, the total number of visitors to the Dubbo Regional Gallery was measured ([Museums and Galleries NSW, 2010](#)). Whilst this is clearly some measure of benefit given the time pressures on people’s lives they would not have visited the Gallery if they did not derive a personal benefit, some of these visits might have been compulsory school excursions where this argument might not apply. So while usage/visitor patterns are important they are only one element of a comprehensive benefit study.

This is shown in Figure 1. The measurement unit of outputs (visitors to a gallery or a community centre) is not adequate if we are estimating benefits. In order to assess the benefit we need to measure the outcome not just the output.

Figure 1. Inputs, Outputs, client satisfaction and outcomes (based on [Grant et al, 2014](#))



Source: Adapted from Moore (2007)

In some cases there may be a trade-off between usage rates and benefits e.g. if a direct service provider was so popular that it had to restrict consultation times with clients, a more crowded service might have lower total benefits than one which is less popular.

Similarly some councils have undertaken service delivery reviews where the issue of benefits is addressed. For example, when the City of Melville undertook their review in 2012 ([Walker and Gray, 2012](#)) they assessed service quality of their community services by suggesting that community wellbeing was impacted by major indicators including:

- A safe community where people feel a connection with others in their neighbourhood
- Access to recreation and other facilities that enhance physical, emotional and spiritual health and well-being
- An active and involved community with a high proportion of people involved in community groups and volunteering work
- A community where the arts, culture, local history and heritage are valued and celebrated.

A group of staff and community representatives rated each of their services using these indicators. Whilst this is an important exercise for councils, unless these studies are accompanied by more sophisticated studies which measure outcomes (see below) they will be of only marginal use in this current study. There is an important role for local government to provide more evidence of service outcomes and not just outputs (see Section 8).

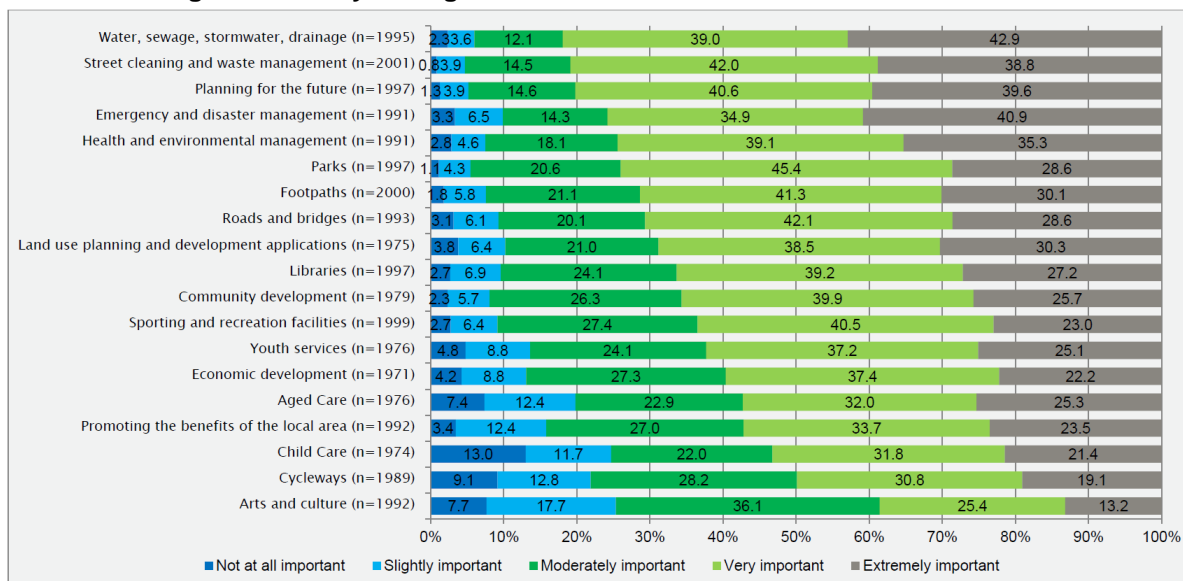
Community surveys

Community surveys are often undertaken in the context of local government. For example, a recent national survey undertaken by the Australian Centre for Local Government ([Ryan et al, 2015](#)), asked the following question:

Q13. I'm going to read out a list of different things that local governments can do. How important it is to you that local government does each of these things?

The responses are shown in Figure 2. This figure helps establish that the majority of respondents think that it is extremely or very important that local government provides the range of community services which are being considered in this study. Note however that they are not considered to be as important as the range of typical physical infrastructure items. A more relevant survey approach is when councils survey their ratepayers to see if they would be interested in supporting an increase in their rates in order to fund particular community infrastructure. This approach could be used by councils through the Integrated Planning and Reporting structure to inform infrastructure funding decisions. This corresponds with a 'willingness-to-pay' measure often used in economics ([Sinden and Thampapillai, 1995](#)).

Figure 2: Responses to Q13 of national household survey showing the relative importance of each task being delivered by local government



Source: Ryan et al (2015) Figure 55.

Another form of survey often used in local government is the satisfaction survey. Many councils undertake these systematically as part of their governance framework (see for example [Walker and Davies, 2012](#)). Again satisfaction levels would be part of a benefit study (for the same service the benefits would be greater for more satisfied rather than less satisfied clients) but on their own they do not provide a robust measure of benefit since they do not actually measure outcomes.

Councils also undertake service delivery reviews which examine efficiency measures - again this is not directly related to benefits although the costs of providing x units of benefits is an important consideration for local government (these studies usually measure the ratio of outputs to inputs).

Research methods for measuring outcomes

The highest quality evidence is obtained from controlled trials where we examine the outcomes of individuals exposed to the service/infrastructure and compare it to a matched group of individuals who are not exposed ([Bryman, 2001](#)). This approach is very rarely applied in the examination of social impacts but sometimes some natural experiments are available as a result of different policies/programs being adopted by different governments (see for example, [Dunning, 2012](#)).

A more common but less powerful type of research study are research studies which examine the impact of service provision on users. Client satisfaction questions are often part of these research studies. These measures of impact are then combined with usage rates to estimate the total impact of the services. For example, a study of men's sheds, ([Golding et al 2007](#)) collected data by on-site interview and survey (N=211) from a sample of 24 of approximately 125 men's sheds in five Australian states.

This literature review has highlighted the need for local government to undertake more in depth research on the benefits of its investment in human and cultural services in order to identify the community benefits in terms of outcomes rather than merely outputs.

5. Types of human and cultural infrastructure and services examined in this review

The range of local government human and cultural infrastructure and services examined included:

1. [Libraries](#)
2. [Community centres](#)
3. [Cultural activities](#)
4. [Sport and recreation facilities](#)
5. [Playgrounds](#)
6. [Health services](#)
7. [Seniors](#)
8. [Events and festivals](#)

Each section begins with a listing of the main items that were examined. For the first three items on this list there is a good range of government and NGO reports as well as an academic literature.

6. Assessment of the available literature

This section examined the state of the current literature for the items listed above. For some areas there is a much richer literature which results in a longer description, whilst for other areas the existing literature is much less.

Libraries

The key works are from [Library Council of NSW \(2008\)- *Enriching Communities*](#), [Environmetrics \(2009\) – *Building Knowledge for Library Advocacy*](#), [State Library of Victoria](#)

[\(2011\) – Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries](#) and [SGS Economics and Planning \(2013\)- National Welfare and Economic Contribution of Public Libraries.](#)

These papers have used a mixture of interviews, surveys and market research to ascertain their findings. Library Council of NSW (2008) utilised an industry survey collecting input from library managers across NSW. Ten case studies were selected, at each location, in-depth interviews, 200 in-library user surveys and 200 mailed surveys were conducted. Finally, interviews were carried out with representatives from nine external organisations. In collating the collected data, the economic advantages were divided into three measures – economic value, economic benefit and economic activity. Here, economic value denotes the economic importance of the library services to the community members while economic benefit is the financial amount saved relative to the cost of library services if gained from an alternative source and economic activity refers to the economic advantages of transactions necessary to provide the public library services. This approach of three measures of economic advantages is also adopted by Environmetrics (2009).

Unlike the first two papers, State Library of Victoria (2011) utilises a literature review to provide a foundational understanding as to the economic benefits of public libraries. A survey of more than 1,000 households from across Victoria was undertaken as well as surveys of 1,380 library customers. Finally, seven case studies were selected as a means of testing the findings again against different locations. Furthermore, State Library of Victoria (2011) uses both a Cost Benefit Assessment (CBA) and Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) to measure the economic benefits of public libraries. To assess the CBA, a combination of three valuation techniques are used - financial savings, travel costs and contingency valuation. Here, financial savings refers to how much people would have to pay an alternative source for the same products and services (similar to economic benefit in Library Council of NSW (2008)) while travel costs are how much time, cost and effort people were willing to put into travelling to their local library and contingency valuation denotes how much people would be willing to pay to continue public library services. The EIA refers to the amount of economic activity produced by the services of public libraries. It is measured through the income the libraries generate, the contribution they make to the Gross State or National Product and the number of jobs it creates.

SGS Economics and Planning (2013) was prepared by the same consultancy agency as State Library of Victoria (2011) (SGS Economics and Planning) and as such, adopts the same methodology for evaluating the economic benefits of public libraries that is a CBA and EIA. However, these economic benefits are measured on a national level, rather than within Victoria alone. Furthermore, the study utilised extensive market research including 6,300 online surveys of library users across 14 case study library services in Queensland and Victoria, as well as telephone interviews with 2,150 households (library non-users) in the aforementioned states.

As Environmetrics (2009) is only a scoping study report it does not present results. Similarly, SGS Economics and Planning (2013) only presents findings on economic benefits. This leaves only Library Council of NSW (2008) and State Library of Victoria (2011) to report on socio-cultural results.

Both Library Council of NSW (2008) and State Library of Victoria (2011) agree that one of the most frequently cited benefits of libraries is their safe and inclusive environments. These welcoming environments are said to foster a sense of community for library-goers and encourage socially responsible behaviour. Furthermore, both papers suggest the libraries address social disadvantage by providing equitable access to resources for all. A survey cited in State Library of Victoria (2011) found that only 10% of library users were employed full-time, suggesting the rest to either be employed part-time, unemployed or out of the workforce (i.e. students or retired). Both papers argue that public library use encourages

lifelong learning and enhances enjoyment of hobbies. Library Council of NSW (2008) found public libraries to also be of cultural importance as library events, such as poetry festivals, writing workshops and authors programs, were seen to enrich cultural accessibility and celebrate cultural diversity.

Again, Environmetrics (2009) does not supply any economic results however the other three papers provide relevant mostly corresponding results.

State Library of Victoria (2011) and SGS Economics and Planning (2013) both provide CBAs as the foundation of their exploration of economic benefits. In Victoria, State Library of Victoria (2011) found a benefit ratio of 3.56. Thus, public libraries return \$3.56 for every dollar invested. Similarly, on a national scale, SGS Economics and Planning (2013) found a ratio of 2.9 meaning there is a \$2.90 return for every dollar invested in libraries.

Both State Library of Victoria (2011) and SGS Economics and Planning (2013) again utilised an EIA to assess the benefits of public libraries. In Victoria, State Library of Victoria (2011) found that public libraries generate \$722 million in Victorian income, public libraries contribute \$120 million to the Victorian Gross State Product and that public libraries support the full-time equivalent of 4,430 jobs. Similarly, SGS Economics and Planning (2013) found that approximately \$3.18 billion of economic stimulus is provided to the Australian economy by public libraries per annum while 30,950 jobs are supported by public library services. Furthermore, Library Council of NSW (2008) estimated that within NSW public libraries generate \$810.2 million in income (based on 2004-2005 conditions). However, it should be noted that this sum is not entirely comparable to the first two as a different methodology was utilised to obtain this figure. Finally, both Library Council of NSW (2008) and State Library of Victoria (2011) examined the expense for library patrons should they be obligated to obtain library services from a different provider. Library Council of NSW (2008) found that public libraries save expenditures for the average adult by \$325 per annum in NSW. Similarly, State Library of Victoria (2011) found that an average adult would have to pay an additional \$419 per annum if library services were obtained from an alternative source.

Community Centres

The two main studies here are [SA Centre for Economic Studies \(2013\) - *Economic and Social Impact Study: Community and Neighbourhood Centres*](#)- and [ACT Council of Social Services \(2003\) – *The Contribution of Community Services*](#).

ACT Council of Social Services (2003) obtained an extensive spread of secondary data on community centres in the Australian Capital Territory. Contrastingly, SA Centre or Economic Studies (2013) employed a combination of methodologies. Interviews and consultations were carried out in community centres across South Australia, while questionnaires were given to selected centres. Case studies were also selected where participation observation was carried out. A review of documentation provided by various statistical organisations was undertaken while analysis was also provided of independent reviews of community centres commissioned by local councils.

SA Centre or Economic Studies (2013) provided various social benefits attached to the community centres of South Australia. The study argues that community centres contribute to social inclusion, improve motivation and further personal development. Furthermore, community centres were seen to improve employment and wage outcomes, increase access to basic health and nutrition resources and lessen stress on families through the provision of crèche services. ACT Council of Social Services (2003) did not provide evidence of concrete social benefits.

SA Centre or Economic Studies (2013) found community centres to be economically viable institutions. Economic advantages included direct employment opportunities, pathways to education, volunteering and training and low cost meal services. ACT Council of Social Services (2003) agreed that community centres create a significant number of jobs and provide avenues for volunteer work. Furthermore, the study found that community centres facilitate the economic participation of disadvantaged people who otherwise have restricted access to the workforce.

Similarly, 'SA Centre or Economic Studies (2013) found that the value of volunteer work and crèche services was also high. The value of volunteer work per year was estimated to be between \$32.1 million to \$41.7 million while the value of crèche services was found to be \$1.3 million.

Cultural activities

The main studies are [Museums and Galleries NSW \(2010\) - Value Added! The economic and social contribution of cultural facilities and activities in Central NSW](#), [Museums and Galleries NSW \(2014\) - A Report on the economic impact of the cultural facilities of the Evocities](#), [Americans for the Arts \(2012\) - Arts and Economic Prosperity III](#), [Kelaher et al \(2014\) - Evaluating Community Outcomes of Participation in Community Arts](#), [Dunphy \(2009\) - Developing and Revitalising Rural Communities through Arts and Creativity](#), [Reeves \(2002\) - Measuring the Economic and Social Impacts of the Arts, NSW Department of State and Regional Development \(2008\) – NSW Creative Industry: Economic Fundamentals](#), [Texas Cultural Trust \(2001\) – The Catalyst for Creativity and the Incubator for Progress: the Arts, Culture and the Texas Economy](#), [Cultural Ministers Council Statistics Working Group \(2004\) - Social Impacts of Participation in the Arts and Cultural Activities](#), and [Travers and Glaister \(2004\) - Valuing Museums: Impact and Innovation among National Museums](#).

The economic reports on this list of studies have tended to use an analysis of participation in cultural activities such as participation as a visitor to a museum and/or a creator of cultural content to estimate the total economic impact of cultural activities. Other studies such as Kelaher et al (2014) have attempted to use a survey based approach to estimate the outcomes of participation on community members.

A large number of studies in this space have focussed on the economic benefits of cultural investment, including a study with a sharp local government focus. Museums and Galleries NSW (2010) identified that cultural facilities in the Central West generated \$14 million in output. A later study by Museums and Galleries NSW (2014) for the broader Evocities of NSW identified that the 26 cultural facilities generated over \$40 million in output, approximately 240 full time equivalent jobs and a return to local government of 69%. The NSW Department of State and Regional Development (2008) also undertook some basic research on the economic fundamentals of the creative industries in NSW and concluded that:

The creative industry is a significant component of NSW's economy, employing over 5 per cent of the workforce. Further, over the 10 years to 2006, employment in the creative industry increased by 28 per cent, against 13.5 per cent for all industries. (page 8)

The theme of identifying the economic impacts of arts and culture has also been widely addressed overseas with studies of impacts on whole states in the USA (Texas Cultural Trust (2001)) which identified the impacts on Texas, whilst a major study in the UK identified the economic impact of national museums (Travers and Glaister (2004)). A national study in the USA identified the economic value of arts and culture in the USA as \$166 billion USD (Americans for the Arts (2012)).

Other studies have examined the social benefits of the arts in more detail. For example, Kelaher et al (2014) showed how community based arts had a positive impact on civic dialogue in disadvantaged communities in Victoria. Some Australian studies have highlighted the positive social impact that cultural programs have in rural and regional areas (Dunphy (2009)). A number of international studies have looked at the issue of the social impact of the arts in a lot of detail and hence could be very useful for providing a methodological template for some local research. Relevant studies mostly come from the UK and include Reeves (2002) and Travers and Glaister (2004).

The Travers and Glaister (2004) study specifically looked at the social impact of museums and highlighted their very broad role.

First, they must continue to hold and display the collections that they were originally created to preserve. This, for many people, is the pre-eminent role of such institutions. Second, they must now use these collections to educate, at all levels from university to school. Third, they undertake research of the kind found in private companies and university departments. Fourth, they must now act as mass visitor attractions, on a par with theme parks and other modern leisure facilities. Fifthly, they provide public space, for organisations and individuals to meet and communicate. Sixth, they often have to preserve their built heritage on historic sites. To all of these objectives, the Government now requires a greater involvement in making good failures within society, including efforts to reduce crime and regenerate areas of economic decline. (pages 42-43)

An Australian study on the social impact of participation in cultural activities was undertaken by academics from the University of Western Sydney (Cultural Ministers Council (2004)). The first stage of this study identified over 70 international studies that assessed the social benefit of participation. In a review of the Australian literature and practice the report identified much anecdotal evidence of the benefits of participation but little real empirical evidence. The authors expressed concern about the lack of a consistent framework to examine the social benefits. The Western Australian Government has attempted to address this by using the concept of public value to think about social benefits. They identified three broad groups of benefits which are shown in Box 1 below.

There is much interest in the benefits of cultural investment. However to date the focus has been on economic impacts. Whilst there has been some significant work overseas little systematic work on measuring the benefits of cultural investment has been undertaken in Australia. The development of a public value framework by the Western Australian Government should provide a good platform for future work.

Box 1: Tracking the public value of the arts.

Intrinsic value relates to the value of culture to individuals, centred on how experiencing arts and culture affects us in an emotional sense. How individuals value culture is subjective and involves making judgements about quality based on how it makes us feel. This can include our feelings of connection to the artwork and our own personal subjective opinions of its quality based on the way it makes us feel.

Instrumental value is a more objective measurement and relates to the contribution that culture makes to specific economic and social outcomes or policy goals, such as creating employment, attracting tourism, increasing educational outcomes, benefiting health and wellbeing, etc. Instrumental value can be seen as delivering both direct and indirect value. Direct value derives from economic and social benefits measures such as income generated and levels of public engagement. In-direct value is often measured through a combination of broader social and economic impact assessment approaches.

Institutional value relates to the value that society collectively places on culture, now and for future generations. Holden describes institutional value as the contribution of culture to producing a democratic and well-functioning society⁴. This value area includes both use and non-use value, often captured through contingent valuation and social return on investment approaches.

Source: Department of Culture and the Arts (2014, page 6)

Sport and recreation

The main studies are [Rissel et al \(2015\) – Use of and Short-Term Impacts of New Cycling Infrastructure in Inner-Sydney Australia](#), [Shores and West \(2008\) – The Relationship Between Built Park Environments and Physical Activity in Four Park Locations](#), [Baker et al \(2015\) – Community Wide Interventions for Increasing Physical Activity](#), [Howat et al \(2005\) – Using Performance Measures to Assess Performance of Indoor and Outdoor Aquatic Centres](#), [Newtown et al \(2015\) – The MOVE Study: A study protocol for a Randomised Controlled Trial Assessing Interventions to Maximise Attendance at Physical Activity Facilities](#), [Scottish Executive \(2005\) – Quality of Life and Well-being: Measuring the Benefits of Culture and Sport](#), [Atherley K \(2006\) – Sport and Community Cohesion in the 21st Century: Understanding linkages between sport, social capital and the community](#), [Ware V-A & Meredith V \(2013\) – Supporting healthy communities through sports and recreation programs](#), and [Sydney Urban Parks Education and Research Groups \(2001\) – The Value of Public Open Space for Community Service Provision](#).

There is rich literature on the impact of investment in sport and recreation facilities on exercise levels (Rissel et al (2015); Shores and West (2008)). However, there has been less work on broader social impacts of sport and recreation. The summary of the work by the Scottish Executive (2005) appears in Box 2 reflects the issues common to much of this literature review.

A particular focus on sport and recreation infrastructure has developed as a result of the increasing incidence of obesity. The largest dilemma in this area is that often a combination of strategies is required to increase exercise levels, not just the provision of the infrastructure (Baker et al (2015)).

There is also a particularly rich literature on aquatic centres and the relative performance of multi-purpose aquatic centres (see for example, Howat et al (2005), who highlighted the better economic performance of multi-purpose centres). A range of work has also examined the methodological challenges in this research (Newton et al (2015); Baker et al (2015)).

There is a small but interesting literature on the social value of sports. A useful reference is the literature review undertaken by Atherley (2006) for the Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation. It concluded:

This report reveals direct and in direct linkages between sport, social capital and the community. These links have significant relevance for the development of cohesive communities via sport participation. A review of the literature indicates that sport can help provide social benefits such as community integration, cohesion, cooperation, and community identity and pride. (page 5)

Ware and Meredith (2013) highlight the important social benefits of sport to indigenous communities. These include some improvements in school retention, attitudes towards learning, social and cognitive skills, physical and mental health and wellbeing; increased social inclusion and cohesion; increased validation of and connection to culture; and crime reduction.

A Sydney study (Sydney Urban Parks Education and Research Group (2001)) examined the value of urban parks for community service provision. This study involved interviews with community service providers. The study reported that there was a high level of awareness and enthusiasm among community service providers interviewed for this study about the importance of public open space for the delivery of agency programs. The study also found that public open space provides a number of additional benefits including:

- opportunities for activity for older people;
- supervised childcare;
- health improvement and fitness motivation;
- education in sport, environment and other topics;
- individual development;
- space for students of all ages to learn about the natural environment; and
- conservation of remnant vegetation.

Box 2: Summary of Scottish Executive (2005)

Summary of Quality of Life studies focused on sports

The following conclusions emerge from this review of the sport and exercise literature:

- There is a lack of research on the contribution of sport to QOL and well-being. Most of the existing research relates to exercise, and even in this area there are significant gaps, and many of the studies undertaken have specific limitations.
- Within the existing sports and exercise literature there is no clear common definition of QOL and well-being. This lack of conceptual clarity and consistency has led to inconsistent methodological approaches, with widely varying objects of measurement and, subsequently, a lack of comparability between studies.
- A large number of the studies into exercise are in the area of psychology and the conceptualisation and methods found in these are therefore consistent with that discipline. This literature is mainly concerned with psychological well-being, and therefore deals with just one dimension of overall QOL.
- The research findings indicate an association between and aspects of mental/psychological well-being such as the alleviation of depression and anxiety, and the promotion of self-esteem and positive affect. There may also be links between exercise and other aspects of mental health. However there is not sufficient evidence to confirm a causal relationship. There is also a consensus within the literature about the positive association between exercise and physical health.
- Several of the studies have highlighted the probability of more than one variable contributing to causality, and have indicated that exercise or sports participation may play a role in combination with other social factors, for example through the social support, friendship and collective identity gained through participation. Several reviewers argue for longitudinal studies to help explore this issue further, and to allow for the outcomes of participation to emerge over a longer time frame.
- In the sports literature (as opposed to the exercise literature), there is a wider case made for the link between participation in sport and other outcomes such as personal growth, social integration, social support, and community well-being. However, overall, there is neither the empirical evidence to support a causal link nor to help us understand *how* sports participation, working with other processes, might lead to these outcomes, or whether participation in other types of leisure activity might produce the same type of outcome.

Playgrounds

The main studies are [Bennet et al \(2012\) – *Playground Accessibility and Neighbourhood Social Interaction Among Parents*](#), [Flaes et al \(2015\) – *More Children Active: Tailored Playgrounds Positively Affect Physical Activity Levels Amongst Youth*](#), [Jeanes and Magee \(2012\) – *Can We play on the Swings and Roundabouts? Creating Inclusive Play Spaces for*](#)

[Disabled Young People, Quigg et al \(2012\) – The Effectiveness of a Community Playground Intervention](#) and [Tremblay et al \(2015\) – Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play](#).

These studies have examined issues such as:

- The social interaction of parents (Bennet et al (2012));
- The relationship between design and levels of physical activity (Flaes et al (2015));
- The relationship between design and the participation of people with a disability (Jeanes and Magee (2012));
- The level of investment and activity levels (Quigg et al (2012)); and
- The importance of playgrounds for child development (Tremblay et al (2015)).

The methods used include interviews with parents and children, observations of activity within playgrounds, comparing outcomes in playgrounds with different characteristics and systematic reviews of the literature. The studies highlighted the importance of good design in maximising the benefits of playgrounds, the importance of continuing investment in playground facilities and the benefits to parents/carers of well-designed playgrounds.

No specific work on local government funded playgrounds was located. However this international literature would provide a sound methodological basis for a local study and could inform local government investment decisions in playgrounds.

Health Services

The main literature is [Department of Health \(2013\) – National Immunisation Strategy for Australia](#), and [Hossain et al \(2015\) - The Economic Benefits of Community Health Centres in Lowering Preventable Hospitalisations: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis](#).

Little Australian literature is available on the benefits of local government sponsored health services. Most of the existing literature refers to the public health benefits of investment in health services generally. However there is a variety of planning documents (see for example, Department of Health (2013)) which highlight the crucial role of local government in providing health services, including immunisation.

There is however a good international literature on the benefits of community based health services (see for example, Hossain et al (2015)). The main benefit appears to be the reduction in hospitalisations where community based health services are available. Hossain et al (2015) use hospitalisation data from South Carolina to demonstrate how access to community health centres can reduce hospitalisation rates for some conditions.

Seniors

The main studies are [Golding et al \(2007\) – Men’s Sheds in Australia: Learning through Community Contexts](#), [O’Brien and Phibbs \(2011\) – Local Government and Ageing](#), and [Gill \(2014\) – Banora Point Senior’s Community Survey Results](#).

These studies have considered the social impacts of the provision of local government services to older people. The methods have included surveys of older people as well as community service providers. This is an important area as the Australian baby boomer cohort ages. A very particular risk of ageing, identified by interviews with community service staff from a sample of 20 councils across NSW, (O’Brien and Phibbs, 2011) is the risk of social isolation. Local government services are often at the frontline in attempting to reduce the social isolation of their ageing residents.

The first study examined the social benefits of the men's sheds program in Australia, (Golding et al, 2007). An extract from the executive summary describes the main elements of the study:

This research examines the effectiveness and importance of community-based men's sheds in Australia, focusing particularly on ways in which the nature and organisation of these sheds affect the informal learning experiences and lives of the men who use them..... Data were collected by on-site interview and survey (N=211) from a sample of 24 of approximately 125 men's sheds in five Australian states open in July 2006. Despite their diverse origins, locations, configurations, legally constituted organisations and purposes, men's sheds organisations are shown to share a common commitment to older men's friendship, health and wellbeing.For many older married and retired men, the men's shed provides a welcome and positive circuit-breaker for both men and women from the 'underfoot syndrome' in the family home, particularly where the man has recently experienced retirement or unemployment. (page 7)

The third study examined the operation of Banora Point seniors centre in the Tweed Shire (Gill, 2014). The study was a comprehensive evaluation of the centre and relied on interviewing 74 clients. The conclusions of the Banora Point Seniors Centre study echo the findings, in some respects, of the study on men's sheds:

The Banora Point Senior's Centre is perceived as a well run, welcoming centre, co-ordinated by a friendly, warm, rational and competent co-ordinator. It is a physically comfortable, spacious and clean building with temperature controlled rooms in the cooler months of winter and the hotter months of summer.

It offers a range of fairly traditional, well- run and very reasonably priced activities for seniors who frequent the centre. These activities are well- balanced across the physical, social, mental and emotional areas of well being, with most participants involved in physical activities. These elements combine to create "a home-away-from-home" centre, not only for those seniors who have an effective social network, but for the many who identified as feeling lonely or more isolated before coming to the centre.

A significant body of research indicates that social support is a key determinant of successful ageing. This centre offers opportunities for overcoming social isolation and loneliness, factors, when not present, could threaten the mental and physical health of senior adults in the area.

From the information gained from the 74 seniors surveyed, it is evident that this centre creates opportunities for solid social networks and empowerment. Most people reported that the friends they have made at the centre provide them with a sense of emotional and social security, as well as, someone to depend on in times of need.

The importance of this centre to all seniors who attend can't be over estimated. Many identify it as "the centre of their universe", "their saving grace", and many other such descriptions.

Without this centre, the majority of participants would be lonelier, have fewer friends, live less social lives and be less involved in the community. Many indicated that this is where they interact with others and make new friends. (pages 61-62)

Events and Festivals

The two main studies here are [Janeczko et al \(2002\) – Estimating the Economic Impacts of Festivals and Events: A Research Guide](#), and [Reid \(2004\) – The Social Consequences of Rural Events: The Inglewood Olive Festival](#). Tracking the impact of local major events and festivals is now fairly common. The focus is usually on the economic impact of the event although there is some reference to social impacts.

There is a well-developed simple methodology provided by the Janeczko et al (2002) which was produced by the Co-operative Research Centre on Sustainable Tourism. This report provides a framework for considering the economic and social impacts of any event and then uses four different events across Australia to demonstrate this framework. It also includes some sample survey questions and details on how to administer various survey types. This guide would enable interested parties to develop their own assessment of the impacts of festivals/major events.

This study revealed that the total visitor expenditure associated with the Thredbo Jazz Festival was \$308,400 but the gross regional product was only \$122,743 due to the significant leakage of visitor expenditure outside the region.

Reid (2004) takes a much more focussed view when she examines the social impacts of the Inglewood Olive Festival. In addition to the normal economic benefits of the festival, Reid made the following observation about the social benefits of the festival:

A significant finding from the research was the learning and skill development of community members through their involvement in planning and organising the festival. These skills have the potential of assisting the community in developing new projects or activities, both personally and professionally, within the region. By utilising and developing the stocks of social capital that exist within the community they are better placed to generate development without relying on the different levels of government. (page 12)

7. Summary

A summary of the main findings is shown in the table below.

	Social	Economic
Libraries	Warm and welcome environment provides a sense of community, enriching cultural diversity and accessibility	Provide substantial economic savings to users (approx. \$450 per annum)
Community centres	Contribute to social inclusion, improve motivation and further personal development, increase access to basic health services and lessen stress on families	Direct employment opportunities; training to support work participation and providing avenues for volunteer work

Cultural activities	Intrinsic value: through participation; Instrumental value in the way that culture contributes to specific economic and social outcomes; Institutional value – the value that culture adds to society as a whole	Economic benefits of cultural investment including the provision of direct employment and encouraging visitor expenditure
Sport and recreation	Sports can provide social benefits including community integration especially amongst indigenous communities; Promotes individual self-esteem	Increased exercise leads to better health outcomes and reduced health expenditure; Sports events can attract additional visitor expenditure
Playgrounds	Social interaction of parents and children; Importance for child development	May lead to increased visitor expenditure
Health services	May increase self-esteem and well being	Reduced ongoing health expenditure as a result of improved immunisation levels
Seniors	Reduced levels of social isolation	Reduced costs for health and community services
Events and festivals	Increased social capital amongst community based organisers. Skills can be applied to other ventures	Significant injection of funds via visitor expenditure can have major positive benefit to economic activity, although often very short term in nature

Source: Authors

8. Discussion and Next Steps

When reviewing the range of studies that have been discussed in the previous section, by far the greatest benefit reported is the economic benefit. A traditional economic model (such as input-output model) is used to estimate the economic impact of the community infrastructure. If the investment is a cultural facility, the visitor expenditure is also measured. Often part of the economic value is the unpaid hours of volunteers. These studies often involve a survey of users/customers/visitors.

Some studies also identified the social value of the infrastructure investment often through a survey of users and also by referring to the broader literature. In a small number of cases, both economic and social benefits were measured in the one study.

8.1 Reviews of methods used

The only area where it is considered that a robust evidence base exists is in the area of public libraries. The benefits of libraries have been measured and analysed in a number of Australian studies over the last 10 years including with some large studies.

Some robust evidence exists in the case of cultural facilities (including events) although the number of studies is smaller than libraries and not as comprehensive. The studies in this case have detailed usage surveys and focussed mostly on economic benefits. There is also a reasonable evidence base in the case of community centres, although most of this work exists outside NSW.

Some robust evidence also exists in the case of sporting fields. This is mostly from the scholarly literature. Much of the work here equates benefits with usage and considers that all exercise has significant health and well-being benefits.

There is little evidence on some of the other areas of investment identified in the brief such as seniors and health services. This is possibly because they are part of existing funded programs and because the benefits of investment in this area are considered self-evident.

8.2 Possible scope of major research study

A feature of the review is that a large number of studies identified benefits of the infrastructure investment without referring to any study or research which measured/evaluated these benefits in any detail. Perhaps in some cases this was because the benefits were obvious (e.g. with some health related facilities). However in most cases we suspect this was because capturing and measuring these benefits in detail would require a large, expensive and probably long study.

As highlighted in section 4 of this report *Measuring Outcomes*, it is reasonably clear from the review that local government has not commonly measured outcomes for their investment in cultural and human services. Whilst there has been a variety of interesting background studies which have examined satisfaction levels and compared service models, there has not been a significant focus on the impact of services on community outcomes. This finding is not meant to be a criticism of local government - this finding would be repeated in many service sectors. Directly measuring community outcomes from service provision is an expensive and time consuming exercise, most services would prefer to spend their limited budgets on direct service provision. This suggests that a major empirical research study on outcomes could be very timely and help underpin the value of local government investment in this important area of service provision.

There is the potential for a significant collaborative study between Local Government NSW and a variety of council partners subject to adequate funding being available. However, if funding was available, perhaps through the Australian Research Council as a linkage project or through the research program of the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government, a study which was a collaboration between a research group, Local Government NSW and a range of councils could generate some unique research outcomes. The role of councils would be to nominate projects in the human and cultural service area and to recruit clients for the study. This interaction with councils could be managed centrally by Local Government NSW, who would also be responsible for managing the projects and disseminating the results reported on a state wide basis. In some cases the client's involvement would be quite short - in others a longer time period would be used to allow for changes in client usage and outcomes to be monitored.

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Appendix 1.

Annotated Bibliography

ACT Council of Social Services (2003) *The Contribution of Community Services to the ACT Economy*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Community Services	Report	Secondary Data	N	http://www.actcoss.org.au/publications/Publications_2003/0403PAP.pdf	ACT	Both

This paper examines the hypothesis that the community sector in Canberra is a significant employer with dual benefits, creating jobs in its own right, and at the same time, assisting in minimising the disadvantage to the economy from under-utilised labour. The argument presented in this paper is that community service activities are a significant and valuable part of the ACT. One aspect of the community service sector's value is its contribution to the ACT economy and the following analysis is focussed on the economic contribution of the sector. However, this paper is informed by a holistic view of economic and social development, in which an activity's contribution to social well-being is understood as the ultimate criterion for an assessment of its value.

Victorian Council of Social Service (2015) *Building on the Value of Victoria's Community Sector*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Community Services	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://vcoss.org.au/documents/2015/06/Building-on-the-value-of-Victorias-community-sector_ONLINE-VERSION.pdf	Victoria	Both

Building on the value of Victoria's community sector seeks to outline the many ways in which these community sector organisations deliver value to Victoria, and outline strategies for further building on that value, to better support people facing disadvantage, and benefit all Victorians.

South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (2013) *Economic and Social Impact Study: Community and Neighbourhood Centres Sector*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Community Services	Report	Secondary Data	N	https://www.adelaide.edu.au/saces/publications/reports/consultancy/EconomicandSocialImpactStudy_CommunityandNeighbourhoodCentresSectorNovember2013.pdf	SA	Both

The principal objective of this research is to provide evidence as to the impact of community centres. Community centres work at the heart of communities assisting many thousands of individuals, contributing to improvements in public health and local community development. The SA network of community centres were found to offer a significant economic contribution to the state.

Nicola Brackertz and Russell Kenley (2002) *Evaluating Community Facilities in Local Government: Managing for service enablement*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Community Services	Journal Article	Primary and Secondary Data	Y		Australia	Both

Evaluating Community Facilities in local government argues that outwardly the strategic objective of service delivery is common to the private and public sectors, but fundamental differences in the desired outcomes and responsibilities of the two sectors require different solutions. The research with eight LGAs, reported here, supports the need for a new model for the evaluation of community facilities applicable in the local government context.

Victorian Council of Social Services (2015) *Strengthening the State: A snapshot of Victoria's Community Sector Charities*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Community Services	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://vcoss.org.au/documents/2015/05/Strengthening-the-State.pdf	Victoria	Both

This report aims to provide a snapshot of community sector organisations operating as registered charities in Victoria. These charities form a sizeable part of the Victorian community sector, aiming primarily to support people to overcome disadvantage and poverty.

Americans for the Arts (2012) *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report by Service	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-iv	America	Economic

Arts & Economic Prosperity IV is the fourth study of the non-profit arts and culture industry's impact on the economy. It features customized findings on 182 study regions representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia as well as estimates of economic impact nationally.

Americans for the Arts (2007) *Arts and Economic Prosperity III*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/information_services/research/services/economic_impact/aepiii/national_report.pdf	America	Economic

Arts and Economic Prosperity is the third study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry's impact on the nation's economy. The study features findings from 156 study regions (116 cities and counties, 35 multicounty regions, and five states). Data was collected from an impressive 6,080 nonprofit arts and culture organizations and 94,478 of their attendees across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Australian Council of the Arts (2014) *Arts in Daily Life: Australian Participation in the Arts*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report by Service	Primary Data	N	http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/workspace/uploads/files/research/arts-in-daily-life-australian-5432524d0f2f0.pdf	Australia	Economic

Arts in Daily Life: Australian Participation in the Arts is an independent study commissioned by the Australia Council, which provides insight into how Australians participate in the arts today. It provides a comparison of shifting attitudes and behavioural trends by benchmarking the findings in 2013 against those from the original study in 2009. The research aims to inform the way Australians understand the importance of the arts, influence the development of arts support, and enhance the evidence base which contributes to arts policy development.

NSW Museums and Galleries (2014) *Adding Value; A Report on the economic impact of the cultural facilities of the Evocities of NSW.*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report by Service	Primary and Secondary Data	Y	http://mgns.org.au/media/uploads/files/Adding_Value_-_for_publication_1.pdf	Central NSW and LGA	Both

This study examines the economic impact of cultural facilities, including museums, galleries, theatres, multi-purpose facilities and entertainment centres, operated by the Evocities of NSW. Specifically this report examines the economic impact of the operations of the facilities, capital expenditure related to the facilities, induced expenditure of non-local (tourist) visitation and the return on investment for the facilities. It also examines the impact of employment and volunteering at the facilities, on the local and regional economies.

Department of State and Regional Development (2008) *NSW Creative Industry: Economic Fundamentals*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/55384/NSW_creative_industry_economic_fundamentals_090204.pdf	NSW	Economic

This study provides the detailed economic fundamentals for the creative industry and for each of its sectors.

Kelagher, M et al (2014) *Evaluating Community Outcomes of Participation in Community Arts: A Case for Civic Dialogue*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Journal Article	Primary and Secondary Data	N		Victoria	Social

This article investigates how Community Arts Development Scheme engages the public in thinking about and discussing social issues and, more generally, the role of community arts practice in promoting civic dialogue.

Reeves, Michelle (2002) *Measuring the Economic and Social Impacts of the Arts: A Review*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Secondary Data	N	http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/documents/publications/340.pdf	UK	Both

The study aims to collate and review existing research on the economic and social impact of the arts whilst also sharing understanding of methodologies and measures used for assessing the impact of arts projects, facilities and programmes, as well as the creative industries.

Sweet Reason Pty Ltd (2011) *Planning Sydney's Cultural Facilities*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Planning-Sydneys-Cultural-Facilities-Final.pdf	Sydney	Both

The study complements the recent site considerations for future development of arts and cultural facilities including Barangaroo, the continued evolution of Darling Harbour, and the development of Pier 2/3. It also examines the role and importance of dynamic cultural precincts in enhancing the liveability, reputation, social cohesion and economic success of great cities of the world.

Regional Arts NSW (2007) *Quotes, Stats and Facts: An Armoury for Regional Arts Advocates*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	Y	http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/quotes_stats_and_facts.pdf	Regional NSW	Both

This research brief collates current studies on the social and economic impact of arts practice with national statistics on participation in the arts and cultural industries and data on cultural funding awarded to regional and metropolitan areas. Collectively, the information compiled can be used to show how increased investment in the arts, specifically in regional areas, can impact the viability and sustainability of those areas in significant ways. Ultimately, the research creates an argument for how communities faced with the economic, industrial and population problems endemic to regional areas can strategically develop the arts to manage and sustain livelihood and economies.

Dunphy K (2009) *Developing and Revitalising Rural Communities through Arts and Creativity: Australia. Report for Creative City Network of Canada*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://www.culturaldevelopment.net.au/downloads/RuralCommunities_KimDunphy.pdf	Rural Australia	Social

This paper explores the contribution of the arts and creativity to the development and revitalisation of rural and remote communities in Australia. A search of the Australian literature indicates that arts and creative initiatives are significant for the development of rural and remote communities in the economic, environmental, social and cultural domains. This leads to the consideration that the economy should support arts and creativity rather than the other way around.

Cultural Ministers Council Statistics Working Group (2004) *Social Impacts of Participation in the Arts and Cultural Activities*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/23627/Social_Impacts_of_the_Arts.pdf	Australia	Social

The aim of this project was to identify, collate and evaluate existing applied research on the social impacts of participation in arts and cultural activity to bring together the existing body of evidence. While continuing to recognise the intrinsic value of arts and culture, this project focused on the growing body of research work examining the impact of participating in arts and cultural activity on other areas of social interest and concern. The impact areas examined were cognitive skills and educational attainment; community pride/identity; crime prevention; mood; self-esteem; social behaviour; social cohesion; and health.

Texas Cultural Trust (2001) *The Catalysts for Creativity and the Incubator for Progress: The Arts, Culture and the Texas Economy*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://perrymangroup.com/wp-content/uploads/Arts_Impact.pdf	Texas, US	Economic

The purpose of this study is to comprehensively examine the impact of the arts on Texas, its regions, and its metropolitan areas. This research aims to raise the awareness of the total contributions of cultural activities within the state and to offer a perspective on future patterns and prospects. The research design and conclusions emerging from this report surpass typical evaluations of economic impacts, focusing on the full integration of the arts into the entire spectrum of production in Texas.

Comedia (1996) *The Social Impact of Arts Programs: How the Arts Measure Up.*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://www.artshunter.com.au/communityarts/papers/CommunityArtsMedia.htm	Australia	Both

This study addresses key issues in contemporary arts practice, including the social purpose and value of participatory arts, through case studies and related research. The aim of the project is to develop a methodology for evaluating the social impact of arts programmes and to begin to assess that impact in key areas.

Travers, T & Glaister, S (2004) *Valuing Museums: Impact and Innovation among National Museums.*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/media/documents/publications/valuing_museums.pdf	UK	Both

This report is intended to take stock of the UK's national museums and galleries (those which are members of the National Museums Directors' Conference) and to assess their place within the wider social and economic framework of society. In doing so, efforts are made to address a

number of issues, including the Government's approach to museums and galleries; the economic impact of the NMDC institutions; creativity and innovation; civic engagement and, finally, an analysis of the state of the sector.

Department of Culture and the Arts 2014 *Public Value Measurement Framework Measuring the Quality of the Arts, Perth.*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Cultural Facilities	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	http://www.dca.wa.gov.au/Documents/New%20Research%20Hub/Research%20Documents/Public%20Value/PVMF_Measuring_Quality_Arts_Research_Hub_08_14.pdf	WA	Both

The Department of Culture and Arts in WA has been working on a new logic model to measure the the full range of value created by the arts in a whole of government policy context. The report describes a system that would collect, measure and analyse the value range implied by the new logic model. This report is a summary of that work and the progress DCA has made in developing a new way of defining, measuring and capturing the public value of the arts.

Gajewska, U and Trigg, R (2015) *Centres for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Attendees' Perceptions of Benefits*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Disabilities	Journal Article	Primary and Secondary Data	N		UK	Social

Day and community learning centres aim to provide intellectually disabled (ID) people with social support, life skills and greater control over their lives. However, there is little research exploring the benefits of attendance from the perspective of attendees and whether these goals are met. The article found themes of social support, life skills, control and self-image emerged from the transcripts. This brief report focuses on issues of self-image and internal control of behaviour and emotion, as these constructs have received less attention within existing literature.

Getz, Donald et al. (2010) *Developing a Framework and Priorities for Comparative and Cross-Cultural Research*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Festivals	Journal Article	Primary and Secondary Data	N		Global	Both

The purpose of this paper is to develop both a systematic framework and priorities for comparative and cross-cultural festival management studies, based on literature review and results of a four-country study. The empirical research identifies important similarities and differences

that exist within the UK, Sweden, Norway, and Australia, by three ownership types, in how festivals are organized, their operations and strategies, stakeholder influences and dependencies, threats, and strategies.

Janeczko, B et al (2002) *Estimating the Economic Impacts of Festivals and Events: A Research Guide*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Festivals	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	Y	http://www.crctourism.com.au/wms/upload/resources/bo okshop/Estimate%20Econ%20Impacts%20Festivals-Events.pdf	Thredbo, NSW	Economic

In this study the authors review basic principles of economic impact and apply them to a series of four special events held at Thredbo in Kosciuszko National Park. A number of general research issues are reviewed, including sampling of event participants, questionnaire design, and the development of multipliers for the Snowy region.

Reid, S (2004) *The Social Consequences of Rural Events: The Inglewood Olive Festival*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Festivals	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	Y	http://www98.griffith.edu.au/dspace/bitstream/handle/10072/47967/55931_1.pdf?sequence=1	Inglewood, NSW	Social

Rural areas have encountered numerous changes to the economic and social fabric of their communities over recent decades. This paper investigates the social consequences of a small rural community festival utilising a case study approach of Queensland's Inglewood Olive Festival. The results suggest that a number of social consequences occur within rural areas from hosting community events, these are evident on both an individual and a community level.

Hossain, M et al (2015) *The Economic Benefits of Community Health Centres in Lowering Preventable Hospitalisations: A Cost-Effective Analysis*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Health	Journal Article	Primary and Secondary Data	N		Global	Both

We extend research on preventable hospitalization in the framework of cost-effectiveness analysis. Using hospitalization data from South Carolina, we show how access to primary healthcare may affect the volume and cost of hospitalizations for ambulatory care sensitive

conditions. We observe that the mean differential volume and cost of lower extremity amputation associated with diabetes was significantly lower in areas served by community health centres than in other areas.

Department of Health (2013) *National Immunisation Strategy for Australia, 2013-2018*. Canberra.

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Health	Report	Policy	N	http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/immunisation-strategy-2013-18-cnt	Australia	Both

This document provides the details of a national strategy for expanding immunisation in Australia. It acknowledges the central role of local government in the delivery of the immunisation program.

Environmetrics (2009) *Building Knowledge for Library Advocacy*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Libraries	Report	Literature Review	N	http://www.plvn.net.au/sites/default/files/bulding%20knowledge%20report.pdf	Victoria, Australia	Both

Public libraries make fundamentally important contributions to community development through the range of facilities and the variety of programs they offer. The BKLA study, to be conducted over three years, will deliver a suite of materials to support these goals. Stage 1 of BKLA comprises a literature review of recent economic benefit studies conducted for libraries in Australia and internationally, as well as consultation with local practitioners and stakeholders. This report presents the findings from the literature review and industry consultation.

SGS Economics & Planning (2013) *National Welfare & Economic Contributions of Public Libraries*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Libraries	Report	Literature Review	N	https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/Contribution%20of%20Australian%20Public%20Libraries%20Report.pdf	Australia	Both

This report aims to generate estimates of the contributions that public libraries make to Australian community welfare and Australian economic activity. To do this, SGS applied the same methodological principles that were adopted in recent Victorian and Queensland studies, which were based on two separate measurement frameworks: the net contribution public libraries make to community welfare and the economic activity induced in the economy by public library operations.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (2008) *Social and Economic Value of Public Libraries, Museums, Arts and Sport in Northern Ireland Phase I: Designing a Model*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Libraries	Report by Consultants	Secondary Data	Y	http://www.ifacca.org/publications/2008/09/09/social-and-economic-value-public-libraries-museums/	Northern Ireland	Both

This study identifies the potential benefits that can arise from its four key business areas that include: sports; arts; museums; and, libraries. Firstly, it designs a conceptual framework that would estimate the value of these benefits and any gaps in data that would hinder the practical development of a model. Secondly, it develops and populates a model to demonstrate, in quantifiable financial terms wherever possible, the benefits of expenditure and activities related to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

Library Council of NSW (2008) *Enriching Communities: The Value of Public Libraries in NSW*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Libraries	Report by Consultants	Secondary Data	N	http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/public_libraries/docs/enriching_communities.pdf	NSW	Both

This report, *Enriching Communities*, provides clear evidence of the contribution and value of NSW public libraries in terms of the triple bottom line, or economic, environmental and social impact. The research explored the ways in which New South Wales public libraries sustain the community in social, cultural and environmental terms. The study also found that public libraries contribute positively in terms of economic value, benefit and activity.

State Library of Victoria (2011) *Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Libraries	Report	Secondary Data and surveys	N	http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/for-residents/~/_/media/9B98A26FABA746B79AA9E8B549EB7138.ashx	Australia	Both

Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries is an economic value assessment of public libraries in Victoria. It argues for the continued support of Victorian public libraries by all levels of government. The project aimed to expand the understanding of the value of public libraries in Victoria, to provide public library managers with the means to calculate their specific contribution to the communities they serve and to give public library managers information and advocacy materials to build their case for library funding.

Bennet, S et al (2012) *Playground Accessibility and Neighbourhood Social Interaction among Parents*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Play-grounds	Journal Article	Primary and Secondary Data	N		Canada	Both

This paper examines how access to playground spaces is related to social interaction between parents. Results suggest that while accessibility to playgrounds is associated with social interaction among parents, the direction of the effect is opposite to existing literature on green space and social interaction; parents with low accessibility to playgrounds are more likely to interact socially with their neighbours than parents with high accessibility.

Flaes, S et al (2015) *More Children Active: Tailored Playgrounds Positively Affect Physical Activity Levels Amongst Youth*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Play-grounds	Journal Article	Primary Data	N		The Netherlands	Both

The overall goal of the Richard Krajicek Foundation is to provide children in deprived neighbourhoods with safe public playgrounds that stimulate daily physical activity. This study investigates whether Krajicek playgrounds are associated with higher usage and intensity of physical activity compared to control playgrounds during playground use amongst children.

Jeanes, R & Magee, J (2011) *'Can We Play on the Swings and Roundabouts?': Creating Inclusive Play Spaces for Disabled Young People and their Families*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Play-grounds	Journal Article	Primary Data	N		UK	Both

Using a case study example of a newly developed 'inclusive' play facility, this paper examines the views of young disabled people and their families regarding what makes a play facility inclusive. Using a socio-spatial analysis, the paper identifies the importance of not only addressing physical constraints but also creating a space where disability is viewed positively and able-bodied discourses are not privileged at the expense of others.

Keng Lee, A et al (2015) *Value of Urban Green Spaces in Promoting Healthy Living and Wellbeing: Prospects for Planning*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Play-grounds	Journal Article	Literature Review	N		UK	Both

Globally, the epidemics of obesity and mental illness affecting populations in many developed and developing countries are worsening around the world. This paper aims to provide a narrative summary of the published literature on urban green space. It broadly defines urban green space as any “green space”, “public open space”, or “park” in an urban setting.

Quigg, R et al (2012) *The Effectiveness of a Community Playground Intervention*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Play-grounds	Journal Article	Primary and Secondary Data	N		New Zealand	Social

Playgrounds have been found to be associated with children’s physical activity in the scientific literature, and recommendations have been made based on the assumption that improved facilities and better access to these facilities would increase physical activity. This study assessed whether an upgrade of playgrounds in a community was associated with changes in the physical activity of local children. The study used a natural experiment design with a local authority project to upgrade two community playgrounds as the intervention and a matched control community.

Tremblay, M (2015) *Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Play-grounds	Journal Article	Primary and Secondary Data	N		Canada	Social

A diverse, cross-sectorial group of partners, stakeholders and researchers, collaborated to develop an evidence-informed Position Statement on active outdoor play for children aged 3–12 years. The Position Statement development process was informed by two systematic reviews, a critical appraisal of the current literature and existing position statements, engagement of research experts and cross-sectorial individuals/organizations, and an extensive stakeholder consultation process.

Golding B, Brown M, Foley A, Harvey J and Gleeson L 2007, Men's Sheds in Australia: Learning through Community Contexts, report prepared for the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Seniors	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N	www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1780.htm	Australia	Social

This project investigates the use of community-run 'men's sheds' which have proliferated in southern Australia in recent years. Men's sheds are informal spaces and programs devised for, and used mainly by, men. This report investigates the learning styles employed in men's sheds, as well as the motivations and experiences of the mainly older men who frequent them.

O'Brien E and Phibbs P 2011 – Local Government and Ageing. Final Report. Report for FACS, University of Western Sydney.

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Seniors	Report	Literature review and focus groups	Y	http://www.lgnsw.org.au/files/imce-uploads/35/local-government-ageing-2011.pdf	Australia esp NSW	Both

The study undertakes a comprehensive literature review of the ageing issue. It then examines ageing issues in relation to a number of local government functions by describing current responses and future strategies. Twenty councils across NSW participated in the study. The findings from councils indicated that ageing of the population impacts on almost all aspects of local government. The lack of data meant that it was difficult to provide comprehensive estimates of the financial impact for councils. Nevertheless, the study provides examples of financial impacts of different types of councils across NSW. The largest financial impact appeared to be in the area of providing appropriate infrastructure.

Gill, J (2014) Banora Point Senior's Community Survey Results

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Seniors	Report	Primary Data	Y		Banora Point	Social

Seniors' centres have been a vital community resource for older adults for many years in Australia, helping people age in place within their own communities. This report attempts to create a clearer picture of the role of Banora Point Community Centre to the local Tweed senior community. It is based on quantitative and qualitative feedback provided by seventy-four seniors who regularly attend the centre as volunteers, participants of activities, educational services and/or for other reasons.

Howat, G, Crilley, G & Murray, D (2005) *Using Performance Measures to Assess Performance of Indoor and Outdoor Aquatic Centres*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Journal Article	Primary Data	N		Australia	Both

A recent trend throughout Australia has been to develop multi-purpose indoor public aquatic centres in favour of outdoor pools. Such major policy and planning decisions often rely on consultants' feasibility studies, yet there is limited comprehensive industry-wide data available on which to base such decisions. This paper discusses industry-wide performance measures to help fill in this void by providing objective data to support the contention that multi-purpose indoor aquatic centres tend to outperform centres with solely outdoor pools.

Baker PRA, Francis DP, Soares J, Weightman AL, Foster C (2015) *Community wide interventions for increasing physical activity The Cochrane Collaboratin*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	N		Australia	Both

Multi-strategic community wide interventions for physical activity are increasingly popular but their ability to achieve population level improvements is unknown. This paper aims to evaluate the effects of community wide, multi-strategic interventions upon population levels of physical activity.

Bullough, S et al (2015) *The Impact of a Community Free Swimming Programme for Young People in England*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Journal Article	Primary Data	N		England	Both

This paper examines a national free swimming programme for under 16s in England that was a central government initiative to increase participation in 2008/09. Overall, the programme provided some health benefits to the more engaged participants, but in terms of wider social benefit there was little evidence to suggest the intervention had any additional impact.

Scottish Executive (2005) *Quality of Life and Well-being: Measuring the Benefits of Culture and Sport*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Report by Service	Literature Review	N	http://www.gov.scot/resource/doc/89281/0021350.pdf	Scotland	Social

Quality of Life and Well-being aims to provide a clear understanding of the social and economic benefits flowing from culture and sport projects that enhance quality of life and well-being. Furthermore, it attempts to identify social and economic indicators that can be used to measure quality of life and sense of well-being impact in relation to culture and sport for possible “piloting” in a follow-up piece of research in the context of a culture or sports “case-study” to be identified by the Executive.

Newtown, J et al (2015) *The MOVE Study: A Study Protocol for a Randomised Controlled Trial Assessing Interventions to Maximise Attendance at Physical Activity Facilities*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Journal Article	Primary Data	N		Melbourne, Australia	Both

Physical activity is associated with a host of health benefits, yet many individuals do not perform sufficient physical activity to realise these benefits. This study will assess whether customer relationship management systems, a tool commonly used in commercial marketing settings, can encourage the ongoing use of a physical activity facility. Findings may also indicate the population segments among which the use of such systems are most effective, as well as their cost-effectiveness.

Sydney Urban Parks, Education & Research Group (2001) *The Value of Public Open Space for Community Service Provision*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Report	Primary Data	N	http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/documents/council/Select_Committees/PublicLand/Submissions/pl-sub128_att_1.pdf	Australia	Both

Public open space generates a wide range of social and economic values for individuals, groups and the wider community. The provision of public open space provides benefits for state government agencies, as it enables them to avoid incurring additional costs associated with having to use alternative venues for delivering their programs. This paper aims to explore these benefits more closely.

Atherley K (2006) Sport and Community Cohesion in the 21st Century: Understanding linkages between sport, social capital and the community

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Report	Literature review	N	https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/182036/Sport_and_community_cohesion_in_the_21st_century.pdf	Australia and OS	Both

This report is the outcome of research commissioned by the Department of Sport and Recreation, Western Australia. The overall aim of the research was to gain insight into how sport and recreation can help provide more cohesive communities, particularly within a social context. In order to achieve this aim it was necessary to understand linkages between sport, social capital and communities. The research methodology comprised a review of national and international academic and institutional literature on sport-related aspects of community cohesion and the concept of social capital.

Ware V-A & Meredith V 2013. *Supporting healthy communities through sports and recreation programs*. Resource sheet no. 26. Produced for the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Report/Resource sheet	Literature review	N	http://www.aihw.gov.au/uploadedFiles/ClosingTheGap/Content/Publications/2013/ctgc-rs26.pdf	Australia	Both

This report is a resource sheet compiled for the national Closing the Gap Clearinghouse run by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It provides a good summary about what we know about the benefits of sports for indigenous communities and identifies what are good and bad implementation strategies to encourage participation in sports programs.

Rissel, C et al (2015) *Use of and Short-Term Impacts of New Cycling Infrastructure in Inner-Sydney, Australia: A Quasi-Experimental Design*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Journal Article	Primary Data	N		Inner Sydney	Both

Given increasing investment in new cycling infrastructure, it is important to understand its impacts. The Sydney Transport and Health Study evaluates a new 2.4 km bi-directional separated bicycle path in inner-Sydney. This paper describes the users of the new bicycle path, and examines its short-term impacts upon cycling behaviour and perceptions of the local environment.

Shores, K & West, S (2008) *The Relationship Between Built Park Environments and Physical Activity in Four Park Locations*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Sports	Journal Article	Primary Data	N		USA	Both

To increase physical activity levels, community officials around the United States have identified public parks as a convenient, low-cost resource to enable active living. However, the amenities of the built park environment that best facilitate active park visits are unknown. The current article describes the relationship of micro-level environmental components and park visitors' physical activity.

Leichhardt Council (2011) *Keeping Young People Connected to the Community*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Youth	Meeting Minutes	Primary and Secondary Data	Y		Leichhardt, NSW	Social

One of the challenges experienced by some young people is in staying connected to formal institutions such as secondary school, during teenage years. These meeting minutes address the ways to assist in engaging the youth with the local community in a small community in urban NSW.

Australian Youth Mentoring Network (2010) *Leichhardt Council: Prospective Mentoring Program*

Topic Area	Type of Document	Method	Specific LG Focus (Y/N)	Web address (if Applicable)	Geographic Coverage	Social/Economic Benefits?
Youth	Report	Primary and Secondary Data	Y		Leichhardt, NSW	Both

This report provides recommendations for a potential youth mentoring program. This report will highlight areas of consideration to assist the Council Members to make an informed decision about the type of youth mentoring program to commission which will meet the Australian Youth Mentoring Benchmarks.