Standards of Evidence

What are the Standards of Evidence?

The Standards of Evidence underpin the department's Evidence Framework. They provide a consistent way of assessing the evidence we use and generate.

What is in the standards?

The standards incorporate four dimensions to consider when we use and generate evidence – design, impact, scalability and investment.

Design	💩 Impact	Scalability	S Investment
Quality of attribution	Measurable change	Potential to implement	Creating value

Each dimension contains five levels that indicate the relative strength of evidence. Levels may differ across the dimensions. For example, an initiative may have very high (level five) evidence of impact but the scalability may be unknown (level one). Building better evidence is an incremental process and in some circumstances it may not be possible to progress to the highest levels of evidence strength.

The standards recognise value in both qualitative and quantitative knowledge, acknowledging the benefits of using evidence from multiple sources and ensuring consistency in the collection of evidence.

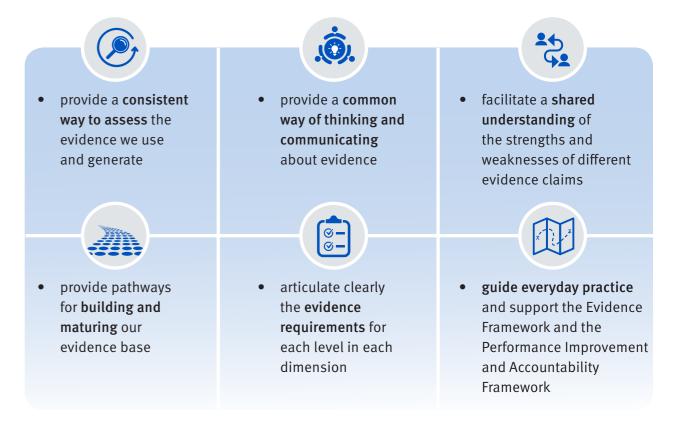
When do the standards apply?

The standards are intended to help us gain a richer understanding of what is working, when, for whom and under what conditions.

The standards can be applied by all staff during the course of their work. For example, the standards could be used prospectively to design new initiatives and data collection processes that would enable better evidence generation with regard to attribution, impact, scale and cost. The standards could also be used to evaluate actions underway or to assess external evidence claims regarding impact.



Why do we have the standards?



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More information

For more information about the Department of Education and Training's commitment to building better evidence, please see <u>https://qed.qld.gov.au/publications/</u> <u>management-and-frameworks/evidence-framework/foundations-evidence/</u> <u>standards-evidence</u>





Standards of Evidence

Strength of evidence



Quality of attribution

Verified attribution

An independent source or sources verifies the demonstrated measurable change can be attributed to the initiative

Attribution

Evidence from a high-quality study or studies establishes the measurable change can be attributed to the initiative

Possible attribution

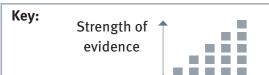
A reasonable explanation supports attribution of the measurable change to the initiative

Attribution unclear

A logical plan describes the initiative and its objectives, target and comparison groups, inputs, outputs, outcomes and timelines. It includes the measures and methods for collecting, storing and analysing data

No attribution possible

The plan or design of the study and the quality of the data or monitoring are not sufficiently robust to support attribution





Measurable change

Very high Very large measured improvement

High Large measured improvement

Moderate

Medium measured improvement

Low

Small measured improvement that can be reasonably linked to the initiative

Unknown

Impact cannot be measured or unintended impact is identified

Potential to implement

Larger scale implementation

An independent source or sources verifies the initiative has been implemented by others on a larger scale

Implemented elsewhere

The initiative can be implemented in more than one setting and/or with different groups with at least the same impact. Documentation supports implementation

Well documented

Documentation exists about how the initiative is implemented and is comprehensive enough to enable implementation with different groups or in other settings

Could work

Documentation describing the implementation of the initiative in one setting exists

Unknown

Insufficient documentation exists on the initiative





Creating value

Cost-effectiveness known

Information on cost-effectiveness exists

Outcomes costed

Information on the costs per unit of outcome exists

Outputs costed

Information on the costs per unit of output exists

Costs known

The costs of the initiative (for example, financial, human resources, infrastructure, program licensing, implementation etc.) are known

Unknown

There is no or limited information on the cost



Queensland Government