



Methods

Amplify Impact: Patient Organisation Sustainability
& Health Equity

02

Objective & methodology

The objective of this project is to systematically identify, verify and code publicly available evidence describing government support mechanisms for health charities and non-government organisations (NGOs) across Australia and five comparator countries.

The audit will identify both the existence of support instruments and the characteristics of those instruments using a standard taxonomy and scoring framework.

Countries

The audit will include:

- Australia
- United Kingdom
- New Zealand
- Canada
- United States
- Singapore

Together these represent a range of government support models while remaining highly feasible to audit using publicly available evidence.

Unit of analysis

The unit of analysis is an individual government support instrument.

Examples include:

- grant programs
- tax concessions
- procurement policies
- registration reforms
- infrastructure support
- data-sharing arrangements
- volunteer support
- government-backed finance
- capacity-building initiatives

Each instrument is coded individually before being aggregated to country level.

Evidence hierarchy

Evidence will be prioritised according to source authority.

Tier 1 (Primary evidence)

- Government legislation
- Government regulations
- Official government policy documents
- Government programme guidelines
- Government budget papers
- Treasury documents
- Government agency operational manuals
- Official grant programme documentation
- Tax authority guidance
- Official procurement rules
- Official charity regulator guidance

Tier 2 (Secondary official evidence)

- Auditor-General reports
- Parliamentary committee reports
- Government evaluations
- Independent statutory reviews
- National audit office reports
- Government performance reports

Tier 3 (Supporting evidence)

- OECD
- WHO
- World Bank
- Academic literature
- Published evaluations
- Major independent think tanks
- Peak charity organisations

These sources may explain or corroborate instruments but cannot replace primary government evidence where that evidence is available.

Search strategy

Searches will be conducted separately for each country using standardised search strings.

Searches will be undertaken across:

- Government websites
- Legislation databases
- Treasury
- Finance ministries
- Health ministries
- Charity regulators
- Tax authorities
- Procurement agencies
- Cabinet policy documents
- National audit offices
- Parliamentary publications

Example search terms

Each country will use combinations of terms such as:

- health charities government funding
- NGO grants
- community grants
- charity regulation
- nonprofit funding
- government contracts nonprofit
- procurement charities
- gift aid
- tax deduction charities
- charity tax concessions
- volunteer support
- capacity building nonprofit
- government partnership NGOs
- grant programme health NGOs
- charity infrastructure support
- commissioning voluntary sector
- social prescribing voluntary organisations
- emergency NGO funding
- health service commissioning charities

Country names will be substituted consistently, for example:

- Australia health NGO grants
- Canada charity tax incentives
- Singapore nonprofit capacity building

Inclusion criteria

Include instruments that:

- are government initiated or government funded
- apply nationally or are major subnational programmes
- are currently active or were active during the audit reference period
- support health charities directly or indirectly
- have publicly verifiable documentation
- materially affect NGO operations, sustainability or service delivery

Exclusion criteria

Exclude instruments that are:

- private philanthropy
- corporate donations
- purely clinical health programmes
- programmes for individuals rather than organisations
- one-off local initiatives lacking national relevance
- non-government accreditation systems
- unsupported commentary or opinion pieces
- media reports without official confirmation

Coding framework

Each identified instrument will be coded using the project taxonomy.

A. Direct financial support

- Core funding
- Project grants
- Commissioning
- Service contracts
- Block funding
- Subnational funding
- Emergency funding
- Innovation funding
- Infrastructure grants
- Capital funding
- Operational subsidies

B. Indirect financial support

- Income tax concessions
- GST/VAT concessions
- Payroll tax concessions
- Stamp duty concessions
- Property tax concessions
- Deductible gift incentives
- Matched funding
- Government-backed loans
- Loan guarantees
- Fee waivers
- Reduced regulatory charges
- Import concessions
- Customs exemptions

C. Operational support

- Registration facilitation
- Regulatory simplification
- One-stop government portals
- Capacity-building programmes
- Training
- Digital capability support
- Infrastructure access
- Shared facilities
- Government referral pathways
- Health system integration
- Data-sharing mechanisms
- Volunteer support
- Cross-sector coordination
- Procurement access measures
- Innovation programmes
- Emergency preparedness partnerships
- National advisory structures
- Consultation mechanisms

Scoring framework

Each country will be assessed across seven dimensions.

Scores range from 0–3.

Score	Interpretation
0	No meaningful evidence of the support characteristic
1	Limited or fragmented evidence; available only for some organisations or programmes
2	Well-established support with moderate coverage or some implementation limitations
3	Comprehensive, systematic and well-documented support embedded across government

Dimension 1: Transparency

Assessment considers:

- public availability
- clarity
- discoverability
- eligibility information
- published guidance
- reporting

Dimension 2: Accessibility / administrative burden

Assessment considers:

- application complexity
- reporting burden
- duplication
- proportionality
- digital accessibility

Dimension 3: Funding quality

Assessment considers:

- availability of unrestricted funding
- duration
- funding diversity
- sustainability
- infrastructure support

Dimension 4: Timeliness and reliability

Assessment considers:

- predictable funding
- payment speed
- renewal processes
- continuity

Dimension 5: Equity and inclusion

Assessment considers:

- support for rural organisations
- Indigenous organisations
- culturally diverse communities
- disability inclusion
- small organisations
- underserved populations

Dimension 6: Proportional accountability

Assessment considers:

- reporting proportionality
- risk-based oversight
- duplication
- governance expectations
- administrative efficiency

Dimension 7: Operational enablement

Assessment considers:

- procurement access
- commissioning opportunities
- health system integration
- referral pathways
- infrastructure
- data sharing
- government coordination
- capacity building

Evidence recording

Every coded instrument will include:

- country
- instrument name
- taxonomy category
- responsible government agency
- legislative or policy basis (if applicable)
- implementation level (national or subnational)
- date accessed

- URL
- evidence excerpt
- coding rationale

Each country score will include a concise narrative (approximately 100–200 words) explaining the assigned score, supported by pinpoint citations to the underlying evidence.

Quality assurance

To maximise consistency and reproducibility:

- A standardised coding manual will be developed before full data extraction.
- Pilot coding will be undertaken across all six countries to refine definitions and calibrate scoring.
- Ambiguous instruments will be discussed and documented to ensure consistent treatment.
- All scores will be traceable to coded instruments and supporting evidence.
- An audit trail will record coding decisions, assumptions, and any judgement calls.
- The final comparative dashboard will only include evidence that can be independently verified from publicly available sources, with uncertainties and evidence gaps explicitly documented.

This protocol provides a transparent, repeatable framework that supports robust international comparison while remaining feasible to implement across the selected countries.