



WANTED: More local experts to support rural NFPs

In rural areas, sometimes it's hard to find the necessary expertise locally to assist in implementing projects. That's why, with the support of the Australian Government through the Future Drought Fund, FRRR set up the [FRRR Expertise Pool](#).

What is the Expertise Pool?

Administered by the Social Impact Hub on behalf of FRRR, it's an online portal to a network of around 70 consultants who have a proven track record of helping remote, rural or regional community organisations achieve their mission and build their resilience through place-based projects. It includes experts in:

- Strategy design
- Workshop design and facilitation
- Impact measurement
- Community engagement
- Marketing & communications
- Governance
- Financial modelling & forecasting
- Coaching and mentoring
- Design thinking & innovation
- ...and much more.

Join the FRRR Expertise Pool

We know that there are other areas of expertise and many trusted advisors who could be supporting other NFPs around the country. So, we're inviting more people to join the FRRR Expertise Pool.

Learn more

- View recording from our [Expertise Pool Webinar](#) held on Tuesday, 05, December 2023
- Or if you're ready now, complete this Expression of Interest.
- Alternatively, contact Jay at the Social Impact Hub on 02 8957 4978 or email: jay@socialimpacthub.org
- or call FRRR on 03 5430 2399 or futuredrought@frrr.org.au

FRRR Expertise Pool

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the FRRR Expertise Pool?

Administered by the Social Impact Hub on behalf of FRRR, it's an online portal to a network of around 70 consultants who have a proven track record of helping remote, rural or regional community organisations achieve their mission and build their resilience through place-based projects.

What's do consultants need to do to join?

First, the expert needs to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI), which is then assessed. If the EOI is approved, the next step is an interview followed by reference checks. After these steps, the expert is required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement. Once part of the Pool, they're required to share a commencement and end of project survey with clients work (via the Pool). This is done to gather relevant client satisfaction and impact data for all projects conducted (via the Pool).

What are the criteria to join the Pool?

Experts need to fulfill several requirements. They must be seasoned and highly experienced with a proven track record of helping regional community organisations. The vetting process includes reference checking.

What does it cost to join and be part of the Pool?

There is no cost to join the FRRR Expertise Pool. Neither FRRR nor SIH take any fee or commission for any referrals or paid advisory work that comes via the FRRR Expertise Pool. Consultants are connected directly with the group and manage invoicing directly.

Why would a consultant join the Pool?

It's a great way to grow your potential client base, as well as work on projects that are important to local communities. By being part of a selective and vetted network of seasoned and highly experienced consultants from around the country is an endorsement of your deep experience, reputation, and track record.

Initially, the focus of the FRRR Expertise Pool was to support community organisations in the Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative. However, it's now open to all Australian-based community and social purpose organisations. This not only widens the range of work but also amplifies the possible opportunities to increase your visibility as a remote, rural and regional expert.

Is there a priority for regions?

There are no particular areas where we are seeking experts, but you must be based in - or at least work in - remote, rural or rural areas.

What areas of expertise are you seeking in new people joining the Pool?

- Advocacy
- Asset Management
- Bid Writing
- Business Development
- Business Planning
- Business Processes
- Campaigning
- Capital Raise
- Change Management
- Coach or Mentor
- Communications
- Company Secretarial
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Data Management
- Environmental Management
- Facilities Management
- Financial Modelling
- Fundraising
- General Management
- Governance
- HR & Recruitment
- Impact Investing
- Impact Measurement
- International Development
- Investment Management
- IT
- JV & Partnership Work
- Lecturing & Workshop Delivery
- Legal
- Market Research
- Marketing
- Media
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Organisational Diagnostics
- Operations and Service Delivery
- Philanthropy
- Pricing
- Procurement

- Project Management
- Public Relations
- Qualified Accountant
- Retail Management
- Sales Management
- Shared Value
- Social Finance
- Sponsorship
- Start-up Experience
- Strategic Planning
- Training & Development
- Web Design

Additional Questions received during FRRR Expertise Pool Webinar

Is there a closing date?

There is no specific closing date at this moment. However, depending on demand and capacity, the EOIs may close and/or reopen periodically.

What is the anticipated timeframe knowing the status of an Expression of Interest?

In light of exceptional interest that has exceeded our expectations, we now anticipate a longer timeframe for the assessment of EOIs. We are diligently working through the EOIs and aim to provide you with an update on your status in the evaluation process, earliest update will be by the end of January 2024, and latest update by start of April 2024. Please keep an eye on your email for further updates.

What sizes of projects do you anticipate coming through?

At the moment, we're still gaining clarity on the potential sizes of projects. Since the FRRR Expertise Pool only recently launched and hasn't been promoted broadly to community organisations yet, it's unclear what their demand, size of projects, and capacity to pay for professional services will be.

Will there be a "logo" we can add to our own websites to say we are part of the FRRR Expertise Pool?

Presently, we are exploring the suggestion to enable FRRR Experts to use a logo to highlight participation in the FRRR Expertise Pool on individual websites. It's important to note that the listing in the FRRR pool is public, but it does not imply an official endorsement or association with FRRR. Please stay tuned for further updates on this matter.

Is the FRRR Expertise Pool open to 'consulting organisations' or just individuals within those organisations?

The FRRR Expertise Pool is open to both individual consultants and consulting organisations.

How many Experts are you hoping to have in the FRRR Expertise Pool?

We aim to have a minimum of 100 experts in the FRRR Expertise Pool.

Why is agriculture not listed as an 'impact area'?

We highly value feedback and suggestions from our experts. During the onboarding process, we invite experts to suggest additional areas and filters they believe would benefit.

Have you tested the skill areas that you've listed to see if this actually covers what community organisations need?

We have put considerable thought into the skill areas we've listed, aiming to cover a broad spectrum of expertise that communities might need. However, we understand that community needs can be diverse and sometimes unique. Therefore, we remain open to expanding or modifying these skill areas based on feedback from both experts and community organisations to ensure that the FRRR Expertise Pool can effectively meet the needs of a wide range of community organisations.

Can community organisations apply for a specialist consultant to work with?

Yes, community organisations can indicate their preferred experts to work with. This is one of the questions included in the community organisation EOI survey.

Can our profile state the regions that we are most willing to work with?

No, expert profiles will not feature the state or regions you are most willing to work with. However, this information can be noted during the onboarding process. We take such preferences into account when concierging community organisations.

How does matchmaking happen?

Community organisations have the liberty to peruse the expert directory and indicate specific preferences via the EOI. Our team then steps in with recommendations, these are based on our comprehensive understanding of the expert pool and the specific needs of the community organisation. Before suggesting an expert, we always ensure to confirm their availability and interest. Once we put forward a recommendation, the decision rests with the community organisation on whether they want us to facilitate a warm introduction.

To clarify this pool is all for paid work? Can you do some volunteering hours too?

Yes, the opportunities within this pool are primarily for paid work. However, we absolutely welcome and appreciate consultants who are willing to offer some of their services pro-bono. This is something we discuss during the vetting process. If you're open to volunteering hours, please let us know so we can factor that into our discussions with community organisations. We believe that this blend of paid, and volunteer work can create a powerful impact in our communities.

Is there recommended scale of fees that could be charged for services offered... or is that up to each individual expert to determine?

It is up to each expert to determine their fees.

Is there a way for community organisations to segment/search by location?

Yes, community organisations can currently segment and search by state or territory location. In the near future, this will be expanded to include segmentation by Local Government Area for a more granular understanding of expert locations.

Will interviews be via Zoom?

Interviews can be conducted through Zoom. However, if preferred, we are also capable of facilitating interviews via phone calls.

What sort of things will be covered in the interview?

In the interview, we'll explore various aspects, including your professional experience, the clientele you've previously worked with, your preferred methods of delivery, and your ability to deliver effectively.

Is the insurance risk on the FRRR Expertise Pool side, or the expert side? What are the insurance requirements?

The insurance requirements fall on the expert side. It is the responsibility of the experts to ensure they have appropriate insurance type and coverage.

What consideration is being given to retaining work/income within regions as opposed to redirecting it to metro and regional centres?

We acknowledge the importance of connecting community organisations with local experts, thereby enhancing income retention within regions. Our focus is on expanding the FRRR Expertise Pool to include experts located outside major cities and metropolitan areas. Recommendations will be tailored to individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis and be a balance between sourcing local talent and ensuring the best fit for the community organisation based on their needs.

What plans are in place to promote the FRRR Expertise Pool to the sector?

Promotional campaign is planned for February 2024 targeting community organisations. The primary objective is to promote the FRRR Expertise to community organisation and encourage interested organisations to complete and expression of interest.

Will State Funding Programs allow Groups to be eligible to apply for funds to pay for an Expert from the pool?

While the FRRR Expertise Pool has primarily been established to support community, organisations involved in the FDF's HRCPD Initiative to strengthen social outcomes at a community level in building drought resilience, the pool and experts can be utilised for any project or initiative regardless of how it is funded.

The focus will remain on experts that can assist regional, rural and remote NFP's to build their internal capacity and capability, so that over time, their ability to play an active role in their local community or region is sustained or increased during times of drought.

In the first instance, experts that specialise in building community level social outcomes are a priority. Experts that focus on building environmental (agricultural) or economic outcomes are less of a priority.

How can I find out more?

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