CITY OF
ONKAPARINGA

The Treasury
Australian Government
MeasuringWhatMatters@Treasury.gov.au

City of Onkaparinga Administration's Submission to the Measuring What Matters Consultation

** Please note, this submission is the feedback of the administration and is not an approved position of the elected Council of the City of Onkaparinga**

Introduction

The City of Onkaparinga is the largest metropolitan local government area (LGA) in South Australia and is home to approximately 10 per cent of the state's population (176,000+ people). Located on the southern urban fringe of the Greater Adelaide area, we span urban centres, low and medium density suburbs, rural areas and townships. Our communities vary greatly in terms of lifestyle, socio-economic status, amenity and character.

Key Points

- The UN sustainable development goals are a more suitable set of measures than the OECD indicators as a model for an Australian wellbeing framework

- An effective national wellbeing approach would have 'community wellbeing' at its core

- The pursuit of wellbeing in Australia would ideally see a renewed focus on a social model of health promotion

- It is important to include food security as an indicator of wellbeing, measured through a standardised national tool for data collection

- National wellbeing indicators must be of relevance and utility to local governments

- An effective wellbeing statement would be supported by legislation, policy and adequate resourcing to achieve real outcomes at all levels of government

OECD Framework

We agree with the sentiment expressed in *Statement 4: Measuring What Matters* (the budget statement) that the OECD framework indicators represent a logical starting point to explore a national wellbeing indicator set. However, while they allow for international comparisons, the OECD indicators are not tailored to measuring community wellbeing in the Australian context. We suggest that the UN sustainable development goals may represent a more suitable set of measures upon which to model the development of Australian community wellbeing indicators. The UN sustainable development goals are supported by targets and indicators.

Our concerns with the OECD framework indicators include their relevance, the sourcing of data and methodologies used to acquire it, and an economic bias as opposed to a social/wellbeing focus.

We highlight repetition between some OECD indicators. For example, household income, household wealth, housing affordability and household debt all include data related to disposable income. We suggest that these are neither the best nor most accessible indicators of financial health and wellbeing or living standards. Such issues would be better understood through collection and

interpretation of other data sources and measures, such as mortgage and rental stress, median rental and house sales prices, social housing, household and individual income, homelessness and the rate of those in marginalised housing (crowded living conditions). These measures are included in the City of Onkaparinga's Community Wellbeing Monitor (CWM), outlined below.
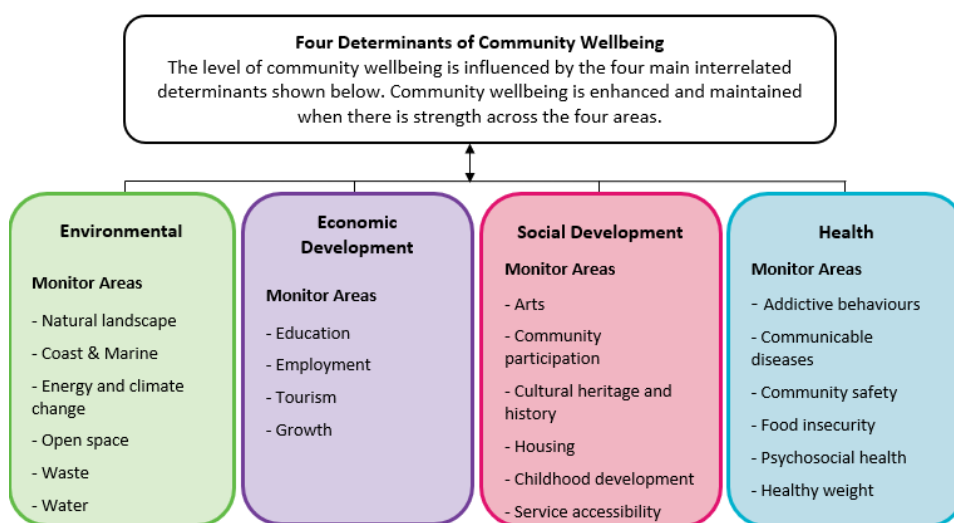
We suggest that social-themed indicators appear to have an economic bias in the OECD model. We consider it important that indicators included in an Australian wellbeing framework are socially encompassing. An effective national wellbeing framework will measure connectedness with community, community safety, food security, cultural diversity and acceptance, participation in arts, physical activity and sports, accessibility of local services and healthcare, mental health, childhood mental health conditions, prevalence of chronic disease, childhood development vulnerability and other social-themed indicators. Again, many of these appear in our CWM.

There are also significant gaps from an environmental perspective in the OECD framework indicators. We note that some of these limitations have been acknowledged in the budget statement. Gaps include appropriate indicators relating to climate change, renewable energy, waste and recycling, water consumption, water reuse and water quality standards. There are many other measures relating to environmental issues of priority to Australians that could also be included in a national wellbeing framework, some of which are included in our CWM.

City of Onkaparinga Community Wellbeing Monitor (CWM)

The concept of 'community wellbeing' should form the foundation to a national wellbeing approach. Community wellbeing is of fundamental importance to our council, particularly in achieving our vision of 'strong, vibrant communities'. Our definition of community wellbeing is a community that is vibrant, livable, equitable, culturally enriched, healthy, viable and prosperous. We believe that the values that underpin community wellbeing are good governance, active citizenship and social justice.

The City of Onkaparinga maintains a CWM to track community wellbeing in our LGA. In our CWM, we identify four major areas that can be used to determine the level of wellbeing experienced in communities: Environmental, Economic Development, Social Development and Health. Within each of these, we have identified key monitor areas and associated indicators. These indicators highlight important trends and issues in the community and can allow us to measure and track progress in achieving community wellbeing. A visual representation of our community wellbeing framework appears below. A list of current indicators is enclosed as Attachment 1 ('Summary of indicators' worksheet).

Four Determinants of Community Wellbeing
The level of community wellbeing is influenced by the four main interrelated determinants shown below. Community wellbeing is enhanced and maintained when there is strength across the four areas.

Environmental

Monitor Areas

- Natural landscape
- Coast & Marine
- Energy and climate change
- Open space
- Waste
- Water

Economic Development

Monitor Areas

- Education
- Employment
- Tourism
- Growth

Social Development

Monitor Areas

- Arts
- Community participation
- Cultural heritage and history
- Housing
- Childhood development
- Service accessibility

Health

Monitor Areas

- Addictive behaviours
- Communicable diseases
- Community safety
- Food insecurity
- Psychosocial health
- Healthy weight

The CWM provides longitudinal trends related to community outcomes. This research forms an integral part in the development and review of the City of Onkaparinga's Community Plan, Regional Public Health Plan, Business Plan, Annual Report, strategic actions, policies and planning processes. It also contributes to the development of funding submissions and priorities, and the identification of advocacy opportunities to state and federal government. We suggest that an ideal national wellbeing framework will provide the same level of utility to all levels of government.

Other Considerations

A Social Model of Health Promotion is Fundamental to Community Wellbeing

The development of a national wellbeing statement represents an opportunity for a renewed policy focus across all tiers of government to a social model of health promotion. That is, on prevention and early intervention strategies. This approach is fundamental to community wellbeing.

In recent times, state and federal government policies have increasingly adopted a biomedical focus on health, and individualised behavioural frameworks, rather than a social model of health prevention. This has resulted in a decline in resources and capacity for preventative measures, particularly at the local government level. This is especially so in South Australia[1].

Successive reviews and funding cuts in South Australia in the past decade have seen the widespread closure of state-funded facilities, programs and initiatives, and ever-increasing pressure on local councils to deliver community services and preventative programs once funded by the state government. Legislative change has shifted responsibility and the cost burden for regional public health plans, and delivery thereof, to local councils, without a commensurate allocation of additional resources.

The development of a national wellbeing statement affords the federal government the opportunity to take the lead for the reinvigoration of a social model of health promotion, and the allocation of resources to increase capacity and practice. Appropriate resourcing will be essential to achieving the goals of a national approach to wellbeing, and in support of the National Preventative Health Strategy 2021-2030.

Food Security

Food security exists 'when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'[2]. Thus, food insecurity exists whenever this condition is not met.

Food insecurity directly impacts health. It also indirectly impacts participation in employment and education and reduces social and community connection.[3] For this reason, food security is an essential component of community wellbeing and worthy of inclusion in a national wellbeing statement.

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[1] Reviving health promotion in South Australia: The role of ideas, actors and institutional forces, Mussolino et al, Health Promotion International, 2022, **37**, 1-12
[2] Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, The State of Food and Agriculture 2001. No 33. Food & Agriculture Org., 2001.
[3] Household Food Security Data Consensus Statement, AHFSDC, December 2022

Recent studies have highlighted a large increase in food insecurity amid COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, supply chain instability, rising food prices and other financial and inflationary pressures being experienced by Australians. This situation is expected to be exacerbated over time by challenging economic conditions and worsening climate change impacts.

Current tools commonly being used to measure food security in Australia are considered inadequate for assessing the true prevalence of food insecurity and likely result in underestimation of the issue.[3] Australia currently relies on outdated ABS data and reports produced by charitable organisations to understand the extent of food insecurity in our communities.

A national standardised approach to food security collection is considered by experts to be essential to enable food insecurity issues to be addressed[3]. The development of a tool, administered nationally, and incorporating comprehensive food security indicators, would enable data relating to food security to be captured and shared. This would inform understanding of food security at a national level and create a benchmark for measuring change. A national tool could then be supported by detailed state and territory-based data to provide insight into the prevalence of food insecurity at local and regional levels, which would facilitate action to be taken.

We highlight the [18 item Household Food Insecurity Survey Module](#) developed by the United States Department of Agriculture and encourage its consideration as a potential model for development of a national tool for food security data collection.

Consideration of the Local Government Context

Finally, we highlight the need for collaboration between all levels of government and relevant stakeholders to ensure that a national wellbeing statement, and associated wellbeing framework, are relevant to, and actionable for, all levels of government in Australia.

In doing so, we request that the local government context, with all its unique challenges, be considered in the formulation of a national approach to wellbeing. Such challenges include the complexities associated with balancing the differing needs and priorities of our local communities, which may be remote/rural, urban/metro or a combination of these, as is the case in the City of Onkaparinga's LGA.

For a national wellbeing framework to be relevant to local governments, the indicators included in a national wellbeing framework will need to be accessible, and data collection against nominated datasets possible, at the local level. Without this, indicators will be of limited value in informing wellbeing policy and program development and influencing funding into the future.

At present, wellbeing data being collected by state agencies is of limited utility to local councils. For example, Wellbeing SA manages the South Australian Population Health Survey, a cross-sectional survey which collects information, on a monthly basis, about the health and wellbeing of South Australians. The way this data is collected (7000 random participants surveyed each month) means that insufficient participants from any one LGA are interviewed, nor tracked over time. As a result, the survey does not provide meaningful LGA-level data that can be effectively utilised by councils.

Often, councils rely on other data made publicly available, which may be years old and of limited utility. Such resources may not be available for the long-term and may be limited in scope.

To fill this gap, some local councils in South Australia have produced their own frameworks (such as the City of Onkaparinga's CWM), while others have developed their own wellbeing indices based on community views of what should be measured. However, this is not an option for councils that do not have the capability and capacity to do this alone, and it remains a significant limitation in terms of a comprehensive and united national approach to measuring wellbeing.

The [Indicators of Community Wellbeing for the Southern and Hills Local Government Area](#) report (April 2022) is one such index that was developed in the absence of a broader guiding framework of wellbeing indicators and related data sources at the local government level.

The development of this tool was a collaboration between the Local Government Association of South Australia, the Southern & Hills Local Government Association, four rural and urban councils, SA Health, Wellbeing SA and the Public Health Information Development Unit. Consultation with the broader local government sector and other public health stakeholders also occurred. The project successfully delivered a cost effective, practical tool for smaller regional councils to monitor community wellbeing. This serves as an example of what may be achieved through effective collaboration and cooperation, and with consideration of the local government context.

The City of Onkaparinga is keen to explore how local governments can contribute in a valid way in the development and implementation of a national wellbeing framework. This is particularly relevant given the important role that all councils play as the level of government closest to the community, and in all councils' delivery of programs that support community wellbeing.

Commensurate Legislative, Policy and Resource Support

We recognise the unique opportunity that is being afforded through the development of a national wellbeing statement and commend the federal government on initiating this process. We are excited to see how the statement will influence and shape policy at all levels of government in the future, including in the formulation of national wellbeing budgets.

In order to do this, a wellbeing statement will need to be meaningful and form the basis for action, enabling the delivery of real outcomes. A purely symbolic gesture of intent will be ineffectual.

Our organisation looks forward to the establishment of legislative and policy frameworks, and the allocation of commensurate resources to achieve policy goals, as this commitment to national wellbeing takes shape.

We would welcome the opportunity to be further involved in the development of a national approach to wellbeing as we continue our work to monitor and improve the wellbeing of our local communities.

For more information, please contact:
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Enc   Attachment 1 – 'City of Onkaparinga Community Wellbeing Monitor (CWM) Indicator Summary 2022' worksheet

Determinant	Monitor Area	Indicators	Data measures	UN Sustainable Development Goal alignment Goal	Target
Environment	Natural landscape	Tree canopy coverage	(i) Proportion (%) of tree canopy coverage (ii) Proportion of tree loss	15 LIFE ON LAND	15.1 CONSERVE AND RESTORE TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS
	Coast & Marine	Condition of reefs	(i) Reef status and overall score by season (or when observations were measured) (ii) Average annual reef status index score	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	14.2 PROTECT AND RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS
	Energy and Climate Change	Solar panel installations	(i) Number of solar panel installations (ii) Proportion of dwellings with solar panels	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	7.2 INCREASE GLOBAL PERCENTAGE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY
		Climate change attitudes	(i) Climate change attitudes and behaviours	13 CLIMATE ACTION	13.3 BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY TO MEET CLIMATE CHANGE
	Open Space	Accessibility and utilisation of open space	(i) Frequency and type of open spaced visited (ii) Main reasons for utilising open space (iii) Satisfaction with the quality and accessibility of open space within the City	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.7 PROVIDE ACCESS TO SAFE AND INCLUSIVE GREEN AND PUBLIC SPACES
	Waste	Community waste to landfill	(i) Amount of waste to landfill, recycled and green waste	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	12.5 SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE WASTE GENERATION
		Waste diverted form landfill	(ii) Amount and proportion of waste diverted from landfill	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	12.5 SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE WASTE GENERATION
	Water	Volume of wastewater reuse	Volume of treated wastewater reuse	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	6.3 IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE
		Water consumption	Volume of water consumption by residential, non-residential and commercial use	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	6.4 INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES
Economic Development	Education	Year 12 completion	Total number of residents who have completed Year 12 (aged 15 and over)	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	4.4 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH RELEVANT SKILLS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS
		Tertiary education enrolments	Total number of tertiary student enrolments (University and VET)	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	4.4 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH RELEVANT SKILLS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS
		Adult Community Education enrolments	Total number of residents who have undertaken Adult Community Education programs	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	4.4 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH RELEVANT SKILLS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS
		Post school qualifications	Total number of people aged 15 and over who have achieved a post-school qualifications	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	4.4 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH RELEVANT SKILLS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS
	Employment	Unemployment rate	Proportion of people and youth in the labour force who are unemployed	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.5 FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK WITH EQUAL PAY
		Employment by Industry type	(i) Total number of residents working in each industry sector (ii) Total number of local workers (within the City) by each industry sector, regardless of where they live	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.3 PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES
		Taxable income	(i) Average annual income (ii) Median household income	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.5 FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK WITH EQUAL PAY
		Journey to work	(i) Residents location of employment (ii) Local workers place of residence (Living outside and inside the City)	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.3 PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES
		Migrant arrivals	Number of migrant arrivals by migrant stream	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	10.7 RESPONSIBLE AND WELL-MANAGED MIGRATION POLICIES
	Tourism	Number of visitors	Number of visitors to Onkaparinga by type of visitor (domestic, day and international)	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.9 PROMOTE BENEFICIAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
		Visitor expenditure	Total amount of visitor expenditure in Onkaparinga	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.9 PROMOTE BENEFICIAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
		Perceptions of tourism	(i) Extent of agreement that there are lots of things to see and do in the City (ii) Extent of agreement that residents can always find something they enjoy doing in the City	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.9 PROMOTE BENEFICIAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
	Growth	Number of businesses	(i) Total number of businesses (ii) Net business entry and exits	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.3 PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES
		Businesses type	(i) Businesses by industry type (ii) Businesses by employment size (iii)Business by turnover	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.3 PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES
		Economic value	(i) Output by industry (ii) Gross regional product (iii) Local sales	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.3 PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES

Category	Theme	Sub-theme	Indicator	SDG Goal	SDG Target
Social Development	Arts	Participation in arts and cultural activities	(i) Proportion of residents participating in arts and cultural events	N/A	
			(ii) Extent of agreement to the state of creative expression across the City		
		Sport and active recreation participation	(ii) Frequency of participation in sport, exercise or active recreation	N/A	
		Participation in a community group	(i) Participation in a social or community group and role within group	N/A	
		Volunteer rates	Number of volunteers aged 15 and over	N/A	
		Community connectedness	(i) The extend of agreement with statements related to connections with the community (9 separate questions)		
			(ii) Appearance of local neighbourhood (attractive and maintained)		
	Cultural heritage and history	Acceptance of cultural diversity	(i) The extent respondents agreed that cultural diversity has a positive impact on the community	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	10.2 PROMOTE UNIVERSAL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INCLUSION
			(ii) Extent of agreement the local community's accepts people of difference backgrounds		
			(iii) Extent of agreement that Aboriginal cultural heritage is an important part of the local community		
	Housing	Housing affordability	Houses purchased above and below the affordable index price	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.1 SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
			(i) Median weekly rental prices		
			(ii) Median house sales price (per annum)		
		Social housing	Residents who live in social housing	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.1 SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
		Household stress	Low income households experiencing housing stress; split by those experiencing rental and mortgage stress	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.1 SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
		Homelessness	(i) Rate of homelessness	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.1 SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
			(ii) Estimated rate of those in marginalised housing		
	Childhood (Early life) development	Child developmental vulnerability	Children who are experiencing developmental vulnerability	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	4.2 EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION
	Service accessibility	Public transport patronage	(i) The utilisation of public transport within Onkaparinga	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.2 AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS
			(ii) Accessibility and quality of public transport		
		Walking and cycling	Frequency of walking and cycling in the last 12 months	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.2 AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS
		Accessibility of services	(i) Accessibility of local services and facilities	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.3 INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION
			(ii) Quality of local services and facilities		
		Difficulties accessing healthcare	Difficulties experienced when accessing healthcare by type of health care service	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3.8 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE
Health	Addictive Behaviours	Alcohol consumption	Daily and weekly alcohol consumption	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3.5 PREVENT AND TREAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE
			At risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury		
		Smoking prevalence	Daily smoking rates	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3.5 PREVENT AND TREAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE
	Communicable Diseases	Reported communicable diseases	(i) Number of people reporting a communicable disease	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3.3 FIGHT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
			(ii) Immunisation rates of children aged 1, 2 and 5 years of age		
	Community Safety	Criminal offences	(i) Reported offences against the person and property	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	16.1 REDUCE VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE
			(ii) Reported domestic violence offences		
		Neighbourhood safety	(i) People who felt that their neighbourhood was a safe place	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.1 SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
			(ii) People who thought people in their neighbourhood trusted each other		
			(iii) People who felt safe in their home		
	Food Security	Food insecurity	Proportion of people who couldn't afford to purchase food	2 ZERO HUNGER	2.1 UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD
		Fruit and vegetable consumption	(i) Amount of daily fruit consumption	2 ZERO HUNGER	2.1 UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD
			(ii) Amount of daily vegetable consumption		
	Psychosocial Health	Adult psychological distress	(i) Current mental health condition	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3.4 REDUCE MORTALITY FROM NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH
			(ii) Psychological distress (K-10)		
		Childhood mental health condition	Children treated for mental health or behavioural problem	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3.4 REDUCE MORTALITY FROM NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH
	Healthy Weight	Physical activity	Extent of physical activity	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3.4 REDUCE MORTALITY FROM NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH
		Body mass index	Weight classification based on individuals height and weight	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3.4 REDUCE MORTALITY FROM NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

Sources:

globalgoals.org/goals/ — At a glance definition of the goals and targets

sdg-tracker.org — Further deail about the goals, targets and indicators

They say a picture speaks a thousand words, so here's the state of humanity in a single image. It's the "Doughnut" of social and planetary boundaries and it could just turn out to be the compass we need for creating a safe and just 21st century.
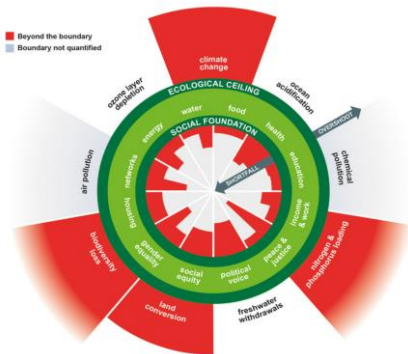

Image: Kate Raworth and Christian Guthier/The Lancet Planetary Health

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SDGs covered by the CWM:	Those missing:	Areas not covered by the SDGs:
2,3,4,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,16	1,5,9,17	Arts
		Community participation