

31 January 2023

Dr Steven Kennedy PSM
Secretary to the Australian Treasury
Australian Treasury

By email to: MeasuringWhatMatters@Treasury.gov.au

Dear Dr Kennedy

Re: Australian Treasury - Measuring what matters

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) welcomes the opportunity to provide input on the Australian Treasury Measuring what matters consultation (the Consultation).

The RANZCP is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand and is responsible for training, educating, and representing psychiatrists on policy issues. The RANZCP represents more than 7700 members, including more than 5600 qualified psychiatrists and is guided on policy matters by a range of expert committees.

It is the RANZCP's view that the Federal Government should have access to and utilise indicators which assess the mental health and welfare of the population. Indicators examining life satisfaction, social support, life expectancy, premature mortality, gender equity, work satisfaction, and discrimination should be taken into consideration.

People living in rural and remote areas experience mental health inequalities and higher rates of suicide and self-harm, as indicated in the RANZCP's [Rural Psychiatry Roadmap](#). Given this, the Federal Government should include indicators which measure mental health access and health equity. The RANZCP continues to recommend that [clinical registries](#) are established for mental health and suicide prevention. It is the RANZCP's opinion that policy and decision making should be supported by robust and well-sourced data.

As leaders in mental health, the RANZCP welcomes further consultation on the use of health indicators to address the mental health challenges of Australians. To discuss any of the issues raised in this letter, please contact Nicola Wright, Executive Manager, Policy, Practice, and Research via nicola.wright@ranzcp.org or on (03) 9236 9103.

Yours sincerely



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President

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