

## Attachment A: Measuring What Matters: Consultation Feedback form

To be completed by meeting host after each meeting and returned to [measuringwhatmatters@treasury.gov.au](mailto:measuringwhatmatters@treasury.gov.au) by 26 May 2023.

### Meeting details

Meeting host name/ organisation: Community Housing Council of South Australia

Meeting host contact details [phone or email]: [info@chcsa.org.au](mailto:info@chcsa.org.au)

#### Meeting host

- ☐ Member of Parliament
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Non-government organisation
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Academic
- ☐ Community group
- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text.

Meeting date: 9 May 2023

Meeting location: MS Teams

#### Participants attending:

- ☒ Member of a community organisation
- ☐ Businesses
- ☐ Academics
- ☐ Union members
- ☐ Individuals
- ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text.

Number of participants: 6 (excluding hosts)

### What matters to Australians?

1. Did the five emerging policy themes Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable, Cohesive and Healthy resonate with meeting participants?

X Yes ☐ No if not, why not

2. Which of the following themes are most important to you? (Select three)

*Our participants did not wish to evaluate the importance of each theme. We instead focused the discussion on the descriptions provided*

3. Which themes or descriptions were most frequently discussed? (Select three)

☐ **Prosperous:**

*A growing, productive and resilient economy*

X **Inclusive:**

*A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate*

☐ **Sustainable:**

*A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations*

X **Cohesive:**

*A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation*

X **Healthy:**

*A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future*

4. What do you see as the most important issues for future wellbeing? Are these captured by the emerging policy themes?

Per above – our discussion focused on the descriptions and themes provided

## 5. How might the descriptions be amended to best reflect our priorities?

### 1. Prosperous:

- Should include explicit reference to suitable and accessible housing. Given that services and amenities are features of the description, and education is an explicit inclusion – participants believed it would be appropriate to include housing as a critical foundational amenity

### 2. Inclusive:

- Participants supported the inclusion of ‘life’s essentials’ but suggested it would be beneficial to have some clarification on what will be considered as life’s essentials
- Participants suggested that – in light of the specific inclusion of gender equality – it would be appropriate to include equality for people with disability, and other marginalized groups such as people who are gender diverse.

### 3. Sustainable:

- Participants considered that the description should make reference to the protection of biodiversity and measures to prevent the extinction of species

### 4. Cohesive:

- Participants considered that institutional approaches (e.g. education, group homes) that refrain from discrimination or exclusion and segregation is an important element of cohesion.
- Participants considered that it would be more appropriate to substitute ‘close relationships with family and friends’ with more inclusive language such as ‘positive social relationships’. There should not be an implication that not having close relationships with friends or family members is negative. Participants believe that social connectedness and relationships that make people feel valued – regardless of who they involve – is most important.
- Participants suggested that point one ‘A society where people feel safe at home, online and in the community’ should be separated and/or expanded:
  1. To centralise housing; in recognition that principles of cohesion – such as feeling safe, social inclusion and community engagement – are contingent on access to appropriate housing
  2. To further emphasise the importance of safe neighborhoods, including access to transport and services

### 5. Healthy

- Participants considered that ‘life satisfaction’ is not a useful or appropriate metric. Life satisfaction is highly subjective, and has a complicated and very personal relationship with the effects of structural or individualised disadvantage.
- In light of the function and purpose of the framework, participants proposed that it would be more appropriate to refer to ‘access to health and mental health services’ as opposed to (or in addition to) good physical and mental health. This would better support the evaluation of policy outcomes and accountability for the provision of adequate health services.
- In recognition of the strong relationship between housing and health outcomes, participants agreed that it would be appropriate to include an acknowledgement such as ‘people have access to appropriate housing that supports good health’.
- Participants suggested that the point ‘A society where people have enough time for family, friends, personal interests and their community’ would be more appropriate to include under the policy theme ‘Cohesive’.
- Participants suggested that the point ‘A society that values the contributions of all regardless of health or ability’ would be more appropriate to include under the policy theme ‘Inclusive’.
- In recognition of the link between loneliness or isolation and health outcomes, participants suggested that an inclusion which acknowledges the importance of cohesion and inclusion on health outcomes would be appropriate.

6. Are there any indicators and existing data sources that will be critical to inform the emerging policy themes?

Participants suggested that application of the framework and policy themes should be measured on the basis of actual outcomes, as opposed to inputs.

Measurement of indicators and progress by reference to current indicators of wellbeing was viewed as a significant challenge of the Framework which requires significant development. Broad indicators of wellbeing are difficult to measure (both by virtue of being subjective and logistically demanding or invasive on privacy) and the current Framework principles provide very limited scope to evaluate and comment on planned approaches.

Participants would like to see clearer references to existing data frameworks to support evidence-based baseline standards. Participants also believe it is important to honor existing data sources and targets (e.g Closing the Gap, Census data, UN Sustainable Development Goals) where the datasets and measurements are well established and effective, and where targets are appropriate and reasonable.

7. Is there any additional information you would like to see in the Measuring What Matters Statement? If so, please outline.

- Participants would like to see further elaboration on a baseline standard for measurements of progress. Without this clarification and strong connection to current data, the capacity of the framework to drive and measure real improvement will be limited. There should be transparency in whole of government approaches to baseline datasets and associated targets.
- Participants would also like clarification on the frequency of measurement and data monitoring.
- Participants would like the framework development process to include evaluation of whether the available data is suitable and up to date for measurement of the policy themes and elements, including current or preferable disaggregation of data by relevant cohorts.
- Participants would like to see more clarity in the language framing the descriptions in terms of who the aspirations are applicable to. For example, some descriptions refer to all Australians, others refer to people. Does 'all Australians' include Australian residents or visitors who identify with a nationality other than Australian? Does 'people' include all residents and visitors to Australia? Will 'people' be measured by reference to an average measure? For example – 'people are financially secure' – will this be measured by the overall eradication of poverty, or the average financial security of the majority of the population?