



**Zoe Daniel MP**

Independent Federal Member for Goldstein

## 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: Zoe Daniel MP

Meeting host contact details [phone or email]: [zoe.daniel.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:zoe.daniel.MP@aph.gov.au) (03) 9557 4644

#### 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: 26/04/2023

Meeting location: Beaumaris Football Club

#### Participants attending:

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

Number of participants: 60 participants

## What matters to Australians?

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

☐ Yes ☒ No if not, why not

**Overall yes, however there were relevant points that could improve all as noted below:**

**Prosperous** – what would improve this:

- Closing the wealth gap between rich and poor, through means including broad based and genuine tax reform.
- An economy that is more resilient and less vulnerable to shocks. Participants were drawn to current crises rather than future thinking.
- Safety, including crime, national security, cyber-safety and safety for marginalised communities and individuals.
- Policies that reflect a holistic approach and a [‘hierarchy of needs’](#) vital to wellbeing.
- Tie in prosperity with ‘caring’ to focus on the collective interest.

**Inclusive** - what would improve this:

- While employment is covered in this policy theme, participants believe that placing a greater value on **care work** is essential to achieving better wellbeing in society, particularly as these roles are disproportionately performed by women. Nurses, teachers, and aged care workers are vital to community and currently not appreciated or paid enough.
- Participants want “all people” to specifically include asylum seekers and refugees, people with disabilities, people who are homeless, the LGBTQIA+ community and more.
- A society that allows all people to afford all of life’s essentials means closing the gap between rich and poor.
- Participants wants the consultation to define what they mean by “life’s essentials”.

**Sustainable** - what would improve this:

- An issue important for sustainability is access to ‘wild areas’ and green spaces.
- Better public transport and housing and jobs and services that integrate properly with transport.

**Cohesive** - what would improve this:

- **Integrity and transparency** are central to increased trust in government.
- **Access to credible information.** Community engagement requires access to credible information. This requires media diversity and a vibrant local media.

**Healthy** - what would improve this:

- The theme does not address the extent to which **social media** affects wellbeing, specifically the potential harms to mental health, particularly affecting young people.

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

☐ **Prosperous:**

*A growing, productive and resilient economy*

☒ **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*

☐ **Cohesive:**

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

☒ **Healthy:**

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

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

☒ **Prosperous:**

*A growing, productive and resilient economy*

☒ **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*

☐ **Cohesive:**

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

☒ **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?

Overwhelmingly, participants resonated with the way in which the policy themes effectively shift focus away from the individual and self-interest to focus on collective interest. They articulated some important specific issues they wanted articulated under these themes.

## Prosperous

Participants wanted prosperity for everyone and to **mitigate poverty** -- to **close the wealth gap between rich and poor**.

Participants also want to tie prosperity with **'caring'** to focus on collective interest and diminish the sole significance of money. While a sense of belonging and community engagement are important, 'caring' goes beyond simply participating and enables people to meaningfully contribute to the happiness of others. Policy should reflect the hierarchy of needs. One participant said, **"I live in a community, not an economy"**.

The community sees **access to education** as a fundamental need, central to prosperity, and called for equity between public and private schools as essential to an egalitarian community and wellbeing.

Prosperity requires that we place a greater value on **care work**, such as aged care and childcare including higher pay.

Access to **affordable housing** is also a basic requirement for prosperity for all Australians. Accessibility and affordability of housing is in crisis in Australia.

Participants also saw **AI** as an emerging issue.

## Healthy

Over 45 participants stated that health and mental health are central to wellbeing. Participants valued equitable **'access' to healthcare** -- government support and funding for public institutions -- as a basic universal need.

Participants placed importance on addressing both physical and mental health as vital to positive wellbeing among Australians. They also wanted to mention specific **mental health issues** such as social media, suicide prevention, gambling addiction, and eating disorders.

## Cohesive

Many important issues are covered by the 'Cohesive' policy theme. These include transparency and integrity to improve trust in government, including transparency in political contributions.

The theme of cohesiveness includes safety. The participants believe that safety inclusive of **sentencing and justice reform** for prisoners is central in order to be just. Nothing of this nature is included in the current policy themes. This intersects with youth detention, particularly detention of First Nations young people.

Safety includes **national security and relations with other countries**. Australians have a broader anxiety about these relationships; and a stable global landscape reassures Australians and promotes both in terms of trust in government, national security, and personal wellbeing.

Safety also needs to address **cyber safety and the rise of AI** is important to incorporate into the themes. Technology is changing the world at unprecedented vast rates and we have yet to see how much damage cyber-insecurity will bring; many of the effects of which remain to be seen.

Cohesiveness requires access to credible information through **media diversity** and the availability of **local news** and public broadcasting. Media diversity enables people to be more fully and credibly informed about the issues affecting them and enables accountability and empowers trust in government. Local news promotes connectedness within communities, makes sure local issues are covered and promotes civic participation.

## Inclusive

An inclusive society leaves no one behind and takes care of those who cannot take care of themselves. While employment is covered in this policy theme, the participants believe better wellbeing will be achieved if **care work** was more greatly valued -- and better paid -- in society. Nurses, teachers, and aged care workers are seen as vital to community but are not appreciated enough. This 'caring' and 'selfless' sense of community was consistent among responses.

Participants stressed the importance for cohesiveness of combating loneliness and fostering greater connection.

## Sustainable

Over 24 responses included a need for action on climate change and valuing access to "wild areas" or green space. It would be good to extend the description to include access to a clean and safe environment via action on climate change and proximity to adequate green spaces.

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

The participants agreed that within a healthy, prosperous, cohesive, sustainable, and inclusive community, wellbeing will thrive. However, the policy themes were not clear or particularly meaningful with limited detail. Having more precise descriptions would make the framework easier to understand.

**What isn't captured by any of the themes?**

- AI and online safety.
- Access to affordable housing.
- Measures to address the position of "prisoners" in society and the need for sentencing and justice reform.
- National security, foreign policy, and good relationships with other countries.

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

Not exhaustive but a list of critical data sources were identified:

- a. Prosperity: Statistics regarding the widening gap between rich and poor;
- b. Health: scarcity of bulk billing, availability of doctors, rates of mental health and prevention indicators;
- c. Equity in Education Outcomes: [government funding of private vs. public schools](#);
- d. Rates of homelessness;
- e. Housing: Statistics regarding availability of affordable housing;
- f. [Rates of loneliness](#);
- g. Pay rates for workers -- disproportionately women -- in aged care and childcare;
- h. Cost of university degrees;
- i. Statistics regarding scarcity of local newspapers;
- j. Rates of casualisation of workforce - job insecurity;
- k. Statistics regarding hate crimes against LGBTQI community and individuals;
- l. Integrity and Transparency: [review and reforms to political/ campaign finance](#).

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

The Goldstein community values the opportunity to participate in a process of measuring factors beyond money in evaluating the wellbeing of Australians.

The word “economy” is derived from the Greek *oikonomia*, meaning “managing the household.” How many more factors does that bring in beyond income and expenditure? Immediately we think of health, housing, food, neighbourhood, relationships, ageing, childhood, transport ... and yes, a budget.

Residents of Goldstein participated in the Measuring What Matters consultation during one of our regular Politics in the Club sessions that I hold to keep our community engaged, understanding what is going on in Parliament, and continuing an open dialogue of how I am representing their concerns and how they can participate in setting priorities and delivering feedback to the government.

Goldstein, like all communities in Victoria, experienced the worst of the Australian COVID pandemic and the damage its isolation imposed. In many ways, the pandemic caused people to re-evaluate the value and importance of community, and of living local for a myriad of reasons contributing to wellbeing. Goldstein is a diverse community which includes people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. It is a changing community, as more young couples and families move into the electorate into higher density housing. This change of priorities and demographic makes the process of measuring wellbeing a timely and valuable process.

The community appreciates being consulted.

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- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Other [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Meeting date: 28/04/2023

Meeting location: Goldstein Community Consultation Group – Office of Zoe Daniel MP

#### Participants attending:

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



Number of participants: 10 participants

## What matters to Australians?

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

☐ Yes ☒ No if not, why not

**Overall yes, however there were relevant points that could improve the themes as noted below:**

**Prosperous** – what would improve this further:

- 'Basic income levels' which includes **welfare for those in need**.
- A focus on **'equity' in education, income**, etc. Access to a quality 'public' education is the foundation of what supports a thriving and prosperous society.
- A **strong, sustainable public service** such as hospitals, police, and education. A relevant ideal which crosscuts all categories.
- A **'Liveable' cost of living** is a priority for participants; while this crisis is very topical and current, it is overlooked by the framework.
- A **fair and strong taxation system** ensuring businesses and individuals contribute equally.

**Inclusive** – what would improve this further:

- That **'afford life's essentials'** ensures that 'all can eat'. If not, where does food security and access to nutrition sit within the framework?
- **All are adequately housed.**
- **All have access to quality education.**
- A **tolerant society** which can respectfully disagree.
- More designed **purposeful connections** between demographics; specifically, **intergenerational concepts** such as "old people's home for teenagers".

**Sustainable** - what would improve this further:

- 'Sustainable' should specify and **emphasise the critical need for action** on climate
- Policy must proactively align environmental values, economic, cultural, and planning laws and **consider the impact of not doing so** on the wellbeing of current and future generations.

**Cohesive** - what would improve this further:

- place emphasis on valuing all society's members and **engage and genuinely listen to those who don't have a voice**.
- Participants want '**opportunities to connect**' with both young and old and understand different perspectives.
- **Kindness, empathy, and care** needs emphasis.
- Infrastructure and good social design that **supports connection** by providing physical spaces to meet.
- Media to ensure **an accountable government**.
- 'A society that is designed to foster close relationships with friends and family' should also include '**and people within their community**'. A more holistic view of society and less impacts from not understanding the 'other'.

**Healthy** - what would improve this further:

- Health care needs to be **equitable, accessible and available**.
- A focus on people being able to be of community and have **enough time** for health and family.

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

☒ **Prosperous:**

*A growing, productive and resilient economy*

☒ **Inclusive:**

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

☐ **Sustainable:**

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☒ **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?

The most important issues for future wellbeing include vital **public services**, and equity of access to them. **Education** at all levels should be high quality and accessible to all -- this requires a robust public education. Health care must be affordable and available. Medicare and quality and adequate public hospitals are vital to wellbeing.

**Housing should be available, accessible, and affordable** for those who both buy and rent. Government policy should vigorously provide solutions to homelessness, including community housing. Public green and art spaces promote connection and community **Intergenerational efforts** to connect such as “old people’s home for young people” encourage strong bonds and relationships and reduce the loneliness epidemic.

A focus on people being able to be of community and have **enough time** for health and family.

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

The participants agreed that within healthy, prosperous, cohesive, sustainable, and inclusive community, wellbeing will thrive. However, essential and specific services such as healthcare, education, and housing must be equitable and accessible to everyone regardless of demographics and underpin the Statement.

Kindness, empathy and care should also underpin all aspects of the Statement.

**What isn’t captured by any of the themes?**

- A measure of inclusiveness must include **access to shelter** and availability of affordable housing
- Safety is included under **sustainability** but should specify psychological, physical, cultural, and cyber safety.

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

It was suggested that Australia's Measuring What Matters statement would be well informed by Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Index, the World Happiness Report and Finland's success in achieving the status of the world's happiest country.

For example, to arrive at the world's happiest country, researchers analysed comprehensive Gallup polling data from 149 countries for the past three years, specifically monitoring performance in six categories:

- gross domestic product per capita
- social support
- healthy
- life expectancy
- freedom to make your own life choices
- generosity of the general population; and,
- perceptions of internal and external corruption levels.

Other indicators to consider would be:

- Connection to land and community
- Financial wellbeing
- Autonomy - feeling that one's choices and actions are made freely and authentically
- Competence - feeling capable of achieving what you want to achieve
- Relatedness - experiencing genuine connection with others

Measures must also consider how best to assess and decrease levels of harm in society, in addition to objective factors like life expectancy or subjective factors like life satisfaction. By applying a wellbeing lens to shape policy and prevent harm solidifies longer-term prosperity. When community can be less stressed and thrive, there can also be support for a broader cultural change focussed on the longer term and future generations rather than the immediate and short term.

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

The Goldstein community values the opportunity to participate in a process of measuring factors beyond money in evaluating the wellbeing of Australians.

The word “economy” is derived from the Greek *oikonomia*, meaning “managing the household.” How many more factors does that bring in beyond income and expenditure? Immediately we think of health, housing, food, neighbourhood, relationships, ageing, childhood, transport ... and yes, a budget.

A small focus group session was held as a second consultation session with the Goldstein Community Consultation Group (CCG). This group is drawn from a representative sample of applicants from a range of demographics, and a direct line of representation who meet monthly to provide direct feedback on the community’s positions and priorities.

Goldstein, like all communities in Victoria, experienced the worst of the Australian COVID pandemic and the damage its isolation imposed. In many ways, the pandemic caused people to re-evaluate the value and importance of community, and of living local for a myriad of reasons contributing to wellbeing. Goldstein is a diverse community which includes people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. It is a changing community, as more young couples and families move into the electorate into higher density housing. This change of priorities and demographic makes the process of measuring wellbeing a timely and valuable process.

The community appreciates being consulted.

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