

# 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: Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP, Federal Member for Higgins

Meeting host contact details [phone or email]: (03) 9822 4422

### 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: 19/05/23

Meeting location: Malvern Town Hall, Malvern VIC 3144

### Participants attending:

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

Number of participants: 40

## 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 [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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?

The most important issues for future wellbeing were appropriately managed/regulated rental housing and aged care, as well as sustainability and energy. My constituents also raised student financial security and intergenerational mobility as significant factors in future inequality for the younger generations. The emerging policy themes – Prosperous and Inclusive – adequately capture these issues.

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

Perhaps with a future focus.

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

Consolidating and standardising local government surveys.

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

We must ensure that the needs and aspirations of the next generation are prioritised and safeguarded. Key themes raised included 1. The need for measurable outcomes linked to aspirational, well defined targets supported by program evaluation to ensure accountability and public trust 2. Intergenerational inequality where the “bank of mum and dad” is increasingly seen as the default redistribution wealth system but is inherently inequitable (eg. Housing, taxation reform, financial security) 3. Climate and energy **The following is a series of quotes which were obtained during the discussion during our event:**

#### **Goal setting, program evaluation and accountability**

‘I think what is really lacking is trust in the government to deliver on its programs because if you look at all these aspirational statements there are probably government programs available to deliver on those. The reason this bubbles up to the top of our concerns is because they aren’t working.’

“Something that has bemused me for all the time I’ve lived in Australia. It is not clear to me that anyone really articulates what we are targeting in terms of long term productivity - it should be a commonwealth view of where we need to invest our productivity.”

“there is a high level of anxiety about a whole lot of issues. What I think is important for the government to do. First, what can it control and what can’t it control. The second, determine priorities - budget and government made decisions where priorities lie. Once again, what is it that you can control? “A measured approach to the achievement of outcomes that are achievable in the short term and also what is achievable in the medium and long term.”

“If it’s a question of compliance, we have various rules in place but our public service has been so gutted. We have a lack of ability to evaluate, and a lack of ability to deliver programs.”

“I want to know that the government will deliver on their programs/policies.”

‘Aged care - the fragmentation of responsibility. The federal government doing this, the state doing that, and the local government doing something else but we don’t see a holistic result.”

### **Intergenerational injustice: housing, taxation, climate, secure work**

"My greatest surprise is to see intergenerational mobility being the least important. I am very comfortable, I pay no tax on my super, I could sell my business with no tax, and yet I have four children and none of them can afford to buy a house. It is so unfair. We baby boomers have been so good at feathering our own nest that we have been so good at fostering not one but two generations totally alienated. No one is anticipating their needs, no one is seeing their suffering. If you look at the comparative incomes and cost of living (we had free education too), I think that inter generational mobility should be number one if we are talking about the future. -

'[Inter generational mobility is about] the ability to move forward whether financially or otherwise. Overall our ability to progress through life and do well is superior to that of the younger people. It is not just buying a house, but it is one key issue and a key investment for a family in our lifetime.'" -

"The other aspect is intergenerational - adopted by those who can adopt it. It is only available to a strict cohort of the population and that is why the Greens are mounting their campaign - re: renters, capturing that core of population who don't have access to the banks of mum and dad, and the intergenerational transfers that can happen at the moment."

"For those who are of the view that if you're well off you deserve it and if you're not it's your fault, it is to your advantage to make sure those who are less well off are happy, otherwise you will not be able to enjoy your wealth in peace."

"Young people can't afford their house because they are paying off their HECS." "Remove the indexation of HECS - HECS is bad enough."

"It's a form of wage theft, where young people are paid cash in hand by employers and the kids are too happy to keep their job, too scared to say actually you should be paying into my superannuation account. We brought in the GST to get rid of this cash economy. There's a limit to how many times you can tell your child to stand up to their boss."

"Anthony Albanese says that no one should be left behind. There is a thing called the Gini Coefficient, the gap between the spread of income in Australia and in Australia it's getting higher and higher, poor getting poorer, rich getting richer - we used to be a long way from the US, but we are getting closer. People are getting left behind and they shouldn't be."

### **Tax reform**

"I am surprised tax reform wasn't on the list. It has shown clearly that the more equal the community is, the more equal it is. Tax reform has been one bounced around for many years. Sharing the prize makes us all feel part of the game."

If governments can't decide one number that the tax benefits, this really needs to be addressed. We have GST issues, tax growth issues, it just keeps getting written off as too hard."

"Different taxes between federal and state. Having a simplification lens on trying to make things clearer, simpler, would be a way to move this whole conversation forward."

"On tax reform specifically - when you try to reform a whole tax system, there will be winners and losers. I'd love to see the tax system completely overhauled. Past governments haven't had the courage to push more tax reform."

My daughter has a big HECS debt, she's a journalist, and I'm wondering what the media is doing to this country. She is very left wing, works for Vice, but everything you hear is winners and losers regarding tax. Why should there be winners and losers? Surely everyone has something to contribute and gain.

"On the issue of tax - if you compare Australia's total taxation to our economy, we are one of the lowest taxing countries in the world. Those countries with higher percentages of tax, are generally countries well developed and happier ie. Northern Europe. It is not about not the amount of tax but how you spend it. Better social systems where people are looked after with public housing and free education and create an environment where people are happy."