

KALACC Response to Measuring What Matters Consultation Pack – Second Phase

26 May 2023

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CC: MeasuringWhatMatters@treasury.gov.au

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Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the ***Measuring What Matters Consultation Pack, Second Phase***.

In relation to the First Phase we provided two inputs at that time, being:

- KALACC Submission, being a public document
- ***Draft Literature Review Strong Culture, Strong, Country, Strong Family***, CAEPR, being a confidential document.

Today we are likewise providing you with two inputs in to the Second Phase, being:

1. KALACC Submission, being a public document
2. ***Draft Literature Review Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Family***, CAEPR, being a confidential document.

In regards to #2, I note that this ***Literature Review*** remains in draft form but is now close to being released in the public domain. As soon as this document is in the public realm we will alert you to the change of status for this ***Literature Review***.

The ***Literature Review*** has been produced by KALACC's main research partner, the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University. Dr Mandy Yap of CAEPR has recently met with your colleague Ms Paulene McCalman, Acting Director, *Measuring What Matters*. I believe that in that conversation Dr Yap discussed the *Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Family* project with Ms McCalman.

I also understand that before commencing work with Treasury that Ms McCalman previously worked at the Productivity Commission. KALACC is engaged in an ongoing dialogue and discussion with Mr Romlie Mokak, Commissioner at the Productivity Commission. Mr Mokak is familiar with the *Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Family* research project and in a 28 April 2023 meeting involving NIAA, CAEPR, KALACC and the Productivity Commission, Mr Mokak stated that he saw considerable value in site – specific and community based research and data projects such as the *Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Family* Project. He also stated that he saw considerable merit in further building the evidence base around First Nations Cultural Outcomes, particularly in regards to extrinsic wellbeing outcomes.

Action:

KALACC would welcome an opportunity for CAEPR and KALACC, and possibly the Productivity Commission, to engage directly with Treasury around the issues and matters raised in the *Measuring What Matters Consultation Pack – Second Phase*.

The remainder of this current document sets out at a high level KALACC's key points of response to the *Measuring What Matters Consultation Pack – Second Phase*.

KALACC's key points, in brief, are as follows:

1. Risks Associated With Employing a Small Number of Themes
2. Case Study of Government's Inability to Progress Policy and Programs in the Social and Cultural Determinants of Health Domain, Specifically In Regards to First Nations Peoples
3. Comments on the 'Cohesive' and the 'Healthy' Themes and Suggested Indicators Vis a Vis Culture and Wellbeing
4. The ***Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Family Literature Review*** – Introduction

Yours sincerely



Wes Morris KALACC Coordinator

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: coordinator@kalacc.org.au

"To assist and promote the ceremonies, songs and dance of Kimberley Aboriginal people, to encourage and strengthen their social, cultural and legal values and ensure their traditions a place in Australian society."

1. Risks Associated With Employing a Small Number of Themes

KALACC notes as follows from the *Measuring What Matters Consultation Pack – Second Phase*:

- The written submissions covered themes such as poverty, housing, environment, physical health, mental health, the wellbeing of First Nations people, and arts and culture. [page 4]
- a small number of themes and indicators may help make the framework easier to understand and more effective in guiding decision making. A small number of themes, rather than a long list of separate issues, can help to illustrate the interconnected nature of what matters to Australians. [page 4]
- It is important to note that wellbeing is holistic and themes need to be viewed as interconnected as opposed to discrete or ranked in priority. For example, for the nation and its people to be healthy, it needs to be prosperous, inclusive and cohesive now and remain sustainable into the future. [page 5]

In considering whether these three comments are logically coherent, one might legitimately ask if themes such as the 'wellbeing of First Nations people' and 'arts and culture' can in fact be adequately and appropriately captured within a small number of themes and indicators. In raising that issue KALACC notes immediately that the suggested approach from Treasury runs counter to the suggested approach recommended in the Round One Submission lodged by the Australia Council for the Arts. The Australia Council put forward some six recommendations, these being:

1. Include culture in the wellbeing framework with its own domain for measurement.
2. Consider cultural perspectives throughout the design, implementation and evaluation of the wellbeing framework.
3. Support the self-determination of goals that drive policy to support First Nations wellbeing.
4. Ensure design and development of a wellbeing framework is integrated into government decision-making and sets up co-responsibility across portfolios. This work would need to draw on expertise, including in culture, such as through an advisory panel or taskforce.
5. Include cultural indicators that track:
 - First Nations wellbeing.
 - Cultural participation.
 - Access to cultural infrastructure.
 - Trust and inclusion in society.
 - Economic contribution of the arts and cultural sector.
 - Contribution of cultural investment.
6. Address knowledge gaps and data needs of the cultural and creative industries.

One immediately notes that it is difficult to reconcile the six recommendations from the Australia Council with the suggested broad-brush approach being suggested by Treasury. The Australia Council recommendation # One is:

Include culture in the wellbeing framework with its own domain for measurement.

The ***Measuring What Matters Consultation Pack, Second Phase*** states that arts and culture is one of the main themes contained in the feedback to Phase One. But when one reads through Treasury's Emerging Policy Themes and Draft Descriptions the only appearance for Arts and Culture are the following entries in the Theme of Cohesive Society:

- A society that is Closing the Gap and values First Nations culture.
- A society where people have the time and opportunity to participate in the arts, culture and sporting activities.

If Treasury is committed to this broad-brush approach, then it is incumbent upon Treasury to explain how concepts such as 'consider cultural perspectives throughout the design, implementation and evaluation of the wellbeing framework' can be encompassed within such a broad - brush approach. We note again that such an approach runs counter to the recommendations presented earlier by the Australia Council.

2. Case Study of Government's Inability to Progress Policy and Programs in the Social and Cultural Determinants of Health Domain, Specifically In Regards to First Nations Peoples.

....if suicide prevention is our serious goal, then the evidence in hand recommends investing new moneys, not in the hiring of still more counsellors, but in organized efforts to preserve Indigenous languages, to promote the resurgence of ritual and cultural practices, and to facilitate communities in recouping some measure of community control over their own lives.

Professor Michael J Chandler, ***Cultural wounds require cultural medicines***, being a chapter within ***Determinants of Indigenous peoples' health in Canada***. Toronto, Canada: Canada Scholars' Press. April 2018 2nd Edition.

The ***Measuring What Matters Consultation Pack, Second Phase*** seeks to encompass the concept of First Nations Wellbeing through the following:

- A society that is Closing the Gap and values First Nations culture.
- A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future.

We are told that:

The written submissions covered themes such as poverty, housing, environment, physical health, mental health, the wellbeing of First Nations people.

But the concept of the wellbeing of First Nations people does not specifically appear in Treasury's Emerging Policy Themes and Draft Descriptions, unless we are to understand it to be covered by the reference to 'a society that is Closing the Gap.'

As a sub- set of First Nations wellbeing, a critical element of wellbeing is what is known as the Social and Cultural Determinants of Health [SCDoH].

In June 2020 Professor Kerry Arabena published '*... Country Can't Hear English...*' – *A guide to implementing cultural determinants* <https://www.karabenaconsulting.com/resources/country-cant-hear-english> This report, *A Guide supporting the implementation of cultural determinants of health and wellbeing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples*, had been commissioned by Dept of Health who contracted the Lowitja Institute, which in turn commissioned Professor Arabena to develop the report. On page four of this report one reads as follows:

In Australia, nearly 35 per cent of the health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians is attributable to the social determinants of health, including the physical, social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of individuals and their community. This gap rises to 53.2 per cent when combined with behavioural risk factors such as tobacco and alcohol use, dietary factors and physical inactivity (Australian Government 2017b:4). It is proposed that an antidote to this experience is the adoption of a whole-of-life view that encompasses regeneration and renewal, health and wellbeing, and an acknowledgment of the vitality that culture provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

What one witnesses in this space is complete stasis and policy inaction in regards to actually developing any Implementation Plans relating to the SCDoH, or any commissioning pathways for programs that operate in the SCDoH domain. A short timeline or snapshot of this space would include as follows:

- June 2016 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project**
<https://www.atsispep.sis.uwa.edu.au/>
- February 2018 **My Life My Lead**
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/my-life-my-lead-report-on-the-national-consultations>
- June 2020 '*... Country Can't Hear English...*' *A guide to implementing cultural determinants*
<https://www.karabenaconsulting.com/resources/country-cant-hear-english>
- April 2021: **Culture is Key: Towards cultural determinants-driven health policy**
<https://www.lowitja.org.au/page/services/resources/Cultural-and-social-determinants/culture-for-health-and-wellbeing/culture-is-key-towards-cultural-determinants-driven-health-policy>
- December 2021: **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021–2031**
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-plan-2021-2031?language=en>

On page 9 of the December 2021 **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021–2031** one reads as follows:

First Implementation Plan (2022 to 2026)

The first Implementation Plan will focus on initial actions and measures that will build the foundations to deliver progress on the Health Plan. It will be released within 6 months of the Health Plan.

Since the *Health Plan* was released in December 2021, six months from then is May 2022. We are now at the end of May 2023 and there is still no sign of the *First Implementation Plan*. Five and a half years after the ***My Life My Lead Report*** was released, we are still no closer to having commissioning pathways for programs that operate in the SCDoH domain.

In April 2021 the Lowitja Institute published its report ***Culture is Key: Towards cultural determinants-driven health policy***. Three recommendations within that Lowitja Institute Report are as follows:

1. Develop a whole-of-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures policy
2. Support for the maintenance and revitalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures needs to extend to investment in initiatives that strengthen cultural authority, including traditional community governance and nation building
3. Implement strategies and actions to support strengths-based approaches to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy that include:

These three recommendations are mirrored and reflected in the the ***Close the Gap Campaign Report 2023 - Strong Culture, Strong Youth: Our Legacy, Our Future*** - <https://closethegap.org.au/ctg-annual-reports/>

Within this recent Close the Gap Campaign report, we read as follows:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Policy

Recommendation 8

Australian governments partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to develop, fund and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural policy that:

a Complements and reinforces the Revive – National Cultural Policy that respects the centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in the Australian arts, entertainment and cultural sectors.

b Asserts the centrality of culture to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

c Informs investment in cultural governance, maintenance and revitalisation projects, initiatives and activities both for community and nation building.

d Provides environmental and heritage protections for sites that are sacred or culturally significant, recognising the impacts on Country, social and emotional wellbeing and the cultural determinants of health.

e Improves Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community access to opportunities and resources that support the cultural determinants of their health and wellbeing according to their needs, priorities and aspirations.

f Includes cultural knowledge holders in decision making positions that affect communities.

g Establishes a monitoring, evaluation and action learning framework.

In summary, somewhere between 35 and 52 percent of the health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians is attributable to the social determinants of health. There have been at least five major reports on this topic between 2016 and now, and there is a mountain of evidence underpinning those reports. Notwithstanding the above, there is currently policy and program stasis in this space but there is an expectation that in coming years the SCDoH will be the focus of much policy and program work by the Government.

There are a number of organisations that are undertaking research and evaluation work in regards to the Social and Cultural Determinants of Health. A number of such projects are taking place at the national, whole of population, epidemiological levels. In contrast, it is KALACC, along with our partners at CAEPR, which are undertaking detailed, ground up research and evaluation work at the local community level, through the *Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Family* project. This work is being funded and supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

What one typically finds is that it is difficult to encapsulate causality and interaction within broad scale epidemiological research work. In the process of aggregation and abstraction one loses sight of granularity and causality.

KALACC and CAEPR would be very pleased to meet with Treasury and to discuss the implications of our research work at the granular level, in regards to *Measuring What Matters* and, in particular, in regards to:

- A society that is Closing the Gap and values First Nations culture.
- A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future.

3. Comments on the ‘Cohesive’ and the ‘Healthy’ Themes and Suggested Indicators Vis a Vis Culture and Wellbeing

The *Measuring What Matters Consultation Pack, Second Phase* states that arts and culture is one of the main themes contained in the feedback to Phase One. But when one reads through Treasury’s Emerging Policy Themes and Draft Descriptions the only appearance for Arts and Culture are the following entries in the Theme of Cohesive Society:

- A society that is Closing the Gap and values First Nations culture.
- A society where people have the time and opportunity to participate in the arts, culture and sporting activities.

In regards to the *Measuring What Matters Phase One* consultations, KALACC makes two recommendations to Government:

1. Cultural Investment Trial in the Kimberley

That the Commonwealth Government, in conjunction with the WA Government, implement a Cultural Investment Trial in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia.

2. That Government Work with KALACC and CAEPR to Measure and Evaluate Cultural Outcomes

That Government reach out to KALACC [and to CAEPR] to understand in detail how to develop evaluation and measurement frameworks that suitably capture the value of First Nations Culture, as defined by a leading First Nations Cultural organisation.

In 2016, the Western Australian Department of Culture and the Arts published the following Discussion Paper: **Investing in Aboriginal Culture: The role of culture in gaining more effective outcomes from WA State Government services**. The key proposed initiative in that paper was as follows:

This paper posits a 'Cultural Investment Strategy' in targeted geographic areas to integrate with and support other Government agency actions.

Such a Cultural Investment Strategy would:

- a) incorporate increased investment in existing cultural activities shown to be successful in engaging Aboriginal communities in order to facilitate improved wellbeing and opportunities for advancement;
- b) be developed to address the underlying causes of social dysfunction by connecting Aboriginal people to their culture through cultural maintenance activities that reinforce traditional values, roles and responsibilities; and
- c) support other agency objectives by piloting the strategy through a specific area of high social and economic dysfunction.

The Culture Investment Strategy would seek two potential policy outcomes:

- a) to use the support of cultural activities to improve cultural growth, social cohesion and engagement; and
- b) to use culturally based activities to improve outcomes in health, education, community safety and employment.

KALACC are national leaders in regards to First Nations cultural practice. Across 2019 – 2023 KALACC has become recognised as being at the forefront of the development of Co Design policies, procedures and practices. And at present, the Commonwealth is investing in excess of \$2.1M in to KALACC to work on the ***Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Families Research & Evaluation Project***, with KALACC working in conjunction with the ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. Central to the design and implementation of this project are these elements:

- Led by a nation – leading First Nations Cultural Organisation [KALACC]
- Cultural Projects are led by a First Nations Cultural Programs Director [Wayne Barker]
- The Research Project Coordinator is Indigenous [Steve Kinnane]
- The project employs a cohort of up to 10 local Community Research Practitioners
- The external research partner, CAEPR, is Australia's foremost social science research body focusing on Indigenous economic and social policy from a national perspective.

KALACC has recently appeared before the current Senate Inquiry in to the National Cultural Policy and our written submission to that Inquiry can be found here -

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/NationalCultural47/submissions KALACC are national leaders in regards to policy development around First Nations Culture, especially in regards to Cultural Maintenance and in regards to the Social and Cultural Determinants of Health. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with Treasury around how to approach the measurement of concepts such as 'A society that is Closing the Gap and values First Nations culture.'

4. The Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Family Literature Review – Introduction

KALACC would welcome an opportunity for CAEPR and KALACC, and possibly the Productivity Commission, to engage directly with Treasury around the issues and matters raised in the *Measuring What Matters Consultation Pack – Second Phase*. As noted previously, the written submissions received by Treasury as part of the Phase One consultation process covered themes such as poverty, housing, environment, physical health, mental health, the wellbeing of First Nations people, and arts and culture. And the themes contained in the Phase Two Consultation Pack include as follows:

- A society that is Closing the Gap and values First Nations culture.
- A society where people have the time and opportunity to participate in the arts, culture and sporting activities.

If we take it as given that Treasury staff are not experts in First Nations Culture, or First Nations Wellbeing, then the question remains as to how Treasury will develop a Measurement Framework that adequately and appropriately addresses the issues of First Nations Culture and First Nations Wellbeing. By engaging with KALACC and CAEPR, Treasury can gain valuable insights in to how to progress the development of these aspects of the emerging Measurement Framework.

We are today, 26 May 2023, providing you with two items of correspondence:

1. This present submission- which is a public document which can be freely shared
2. ***Culture and Indigenous Wellbeing: Literature Review for the Kimberley Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Families Research and Evaluation Project***; June 2023; CAEPR; K. BIRCHMEIER, G. BUCHANAN, Y. DINKU, M. HAVILAND, S. KINNANE AND M. YAP - which at this stage is a confidential document not for publication or sharing.

In this present document we take the opportunity to share with you the Introduction to this Literature Review. As follows.

Introduction

Culture underpins all of who we are. It is both what we learn, the framework for how we live and engage with each other and our surrounds. Culture constructs our society and identities, our strength, self-worth and resilience, and in times of great sadness – of trauma, loss and grief – culture heals us (June Oscar AO quoted in KALACC, 2020, p. 5).

This report presents a review of literature on the relationship between culture and Indigenous peoples' wellbeing. The literature we have reviewed includes academic research; government policies, plans and strategies; and publications by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations. While primarily drawing on Australian literature, we have also explored some international examples. This report is the first published output of the Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Families Research and Evaluation Project – a research partnership between the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC) and the Australian National University Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (ANU CAEPR) being undertaken in collaboration with the ANU Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies (CHMS) and the Nulungu Research Institute at the University of Notre Dame, Broome. This project is funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). The project partners and collaborators are working with participating Kimberley Aboriginal communities to co-design and co-produce an outcomes measurement framework for culture and wellbeing that is based on the lived experience and perspectives of Indigenous people and communities in the Kimberley.

As part of the first phase of the Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Families Research and Evaluation Project, this literature review aims to complement the collection of primary data that will inform the development of a draft set of culture and wellbeing indicators for the outcomes measurement framework. To ensure that the draft indicators are centred on Kimberley Aboriginal peoples' lived experience and perspectives, they will be developed primarily from data collected through one-on-one interviews conducted by Community Research Practitioners (CRPs) with members of their own communities. The CRPs are members of different Kimberley Aboriginal communities and language groups – cultural leaders and cultural practitioners – who are employed by KALACC and have been appointed as ANU Visiting Researchers and co-investigators on the project. Co-design and co-production activities complemented by research training aims to deliver two-way skills and knowledge transfer between CRPs and academic researchers over the course of the project. The CRPs have a critical role to play in the project design and planning, the collection and analysis of data, the development of indicators and the outcomes measurement framework, and in the use of the framework to evaluate cultural programs in the Kimberley.

Our review of the literature reflects the significant contributions to the evidence base around the cultural determinants of health and wellbeing over many years – especially from research, evaluations and consultations undertaken by or with Indigenous researchers and/or community-controlled organisations. Our review of the grey literature from government highlights the impact this growing evidence base and related advocacy has had on policies, plans and strategies at the Commonwealth, state and territory levels. At the same time, it highlights some key gaps that remain in terms of evidence-based, strengths-based and rights-based government responses that recognise and implement the cultural determinants of health and wellbeing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (cf. Arabena, 2020).

From a rights-based perspective, Australia endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2009. UNDRIP establishes a universal framework of 'minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world' (UN, 2007, p. 28, Article 43). The Declaration recognises 'that respect for indigenous knowledges, cultures and traditional practises contributes to sustainable and equitable development' (UN, 2007, p. 4). Among its 46 Articles, UNDRIP recognises the right of Indigenous peoples to:

freely pursue their cultural development by virtue of the right to self-determination (Article 3)

maintain and strengthen their distinct cultural institutions (Article 5)

not be subjected to the destruction of their culture (Article 8)

practise and revitalise their cultural traditions and customs (Article 11)

manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies (Article 12)

access education in their own culture and provided in their own language (Article 14)

the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions and histories (Article 15)

maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions – noting that, '[i]n conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognise and protect the exercise of these rights' (Article 31) (UN, 2007, pp. 8-23).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Bunuba woman June Oscar AO describes culture as a framework for living and a source of healing (quoted in KALACC, 2020). Craig Ritchie, an Aboriginal man of the Dunghutti and Biripi nations and CEO of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, has noted that '[c]ulture is more than practices (dance, art, song) ... it is a framework of ideas, truths, norms, values. It is about "what matters". It is how people make sense of life and the world' (quoted in Lowitja Institute, 2020a, p. 18). Culture is fundamental to people's daily lives, shaping their worldviews and what is meaningful for living a good life. The interaction between culture and wellbeing is complex and multifaceted. As a way of knowing, being and doing, culture defines wellbeing as a concept and contributes to wellbeing as an outcome for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In Australia and internationally, there is a growing body of evidence affirming that culture matters for Indigenous peoples' wellbeing (for example: Biddle & Sweet, 2012; Bourke et al., 2018; Butler et al., 2019; Chandler & Lalonde, 1998; Dinku et al., 2020; Dockery, 2010; Dockery, 2012; Lovett et al., 2020; Nguyen & Cairney, 2013). This body of literature often refers to culture as a domain of wellbeing and/or to cultural determinants of wellbeing, though there is no single approach to understanding the links between Indigenous culture and wellbeing.

As this evidence base has grown, the centrality of culture to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing – individually and collectively – has been increasingly recognised in national policy frameworks such as the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021-31*, the *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing 2017-2023*, and the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* (Lowitja Institute 2020a). At the program funding level, the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy administered by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) recognises culture as 'a key factor in improving and maintaining wellbeing' under the Culture and Capability Programme (NIAA 2021).

In its *Culture is Key* report, the Lowitja Institute (2020a) has called for additional action to embed cultural determinants of health and wellbeing into a whole-of-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural investment policy. Among other things, this policy would inform 'the government's investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural maintenance and revitalisation projects, initiatives, and activities' with explicit links to and measurement of improved outcomes (Lowitja Institute, 2020a, p. 5). The *Culture is Key* report identifies the need to develop appropriate evaluation methodologies and practices for programs and policies that are based on an understanding of cultural determinants and the role of community-driven processes. In alignment with this, the overarching principle of the Productivity Commission's *Indigenous Evaluation Strategy* is 'centring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, perspectives, priorities and knowledges' (Productivity Commission, 2020, p.10).

While the primary purpose of this literature review is to draw on the evidence to inform our development of draft indicators of culture and wellbeing in the Kimberley, it also provides insights into if and how Australian governments have developed or are developing rights-based, strength-based and evidence-based responses that recognise and implement the cultural determinants of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health and wellbeing.

The next section of this report presents insights from the literature describing the relationship between culture and wellbeing for Indigenous peoples in Australia and internationally. The report then focuses on research and data analysis that has identified indicators of culture and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including work that has statistically analysed the association between culture and wellbeing. In doing this, we highlight cultural domains, determinants and indicators identified in the literature that can inform and complement the development of draft indicators from data collected through one-on-one interviews in the first phase of the *Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Families Research and Evaluation Project*. This is followed by a review of the grey literature to see if and how evidence of the relationship between culture and wellbeing has been recognised in government policies, plans and strategies in recent years. The report concludes with a brief summary of key insights gained and highlights the place this project has in supporting the recognition and implementation of culturally-centred frameworks for understanding and assessing wellbeing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.