



Australian Government
The Treasury



Measuring What Matters

Community Feedback: Kooyong

May 2023

Consultation process

Consultations on Measuring What Matters have continued following the October 2022-23 Budget. The public submission process closed on 31 January 2023 and more than 160 submissions were received from community groups, business, academics, unions, governments and individuals.

In addition, Treasury has met with a wide range of stakeholders. This includes speaking to other countries', state and territory governments, and organisations that have developed similar frameworks to learn from their experiences. Treasury has also been listening to the views of a broad range of organisations and agencies to ensure the diversity of what matters to different parts of our community, such as those who advocate for the wellbeing of children, is captured.

The submissions and consultations indicate there is broad support for measuring progress against a wider set of metrics including across health, social and environmental outcomes, in addition to economic measures.

The written submissions covered themes such as poverty, housing, environment, physical health, mental health, the wellbeing of First Nations people, and arts and culture. A common, recurring theme is that there should be a strong focus on children and families. This is in recognition that the early years are critical to continued success and wellbeing, both over an individual's lifetime and across generations. Some stakeholders advocated for measuring outcomes for more vulnerable Australians or specific regions. The submissions have been released on [Treasury's website](#), unless the authors have requested otherwise.

Many stakeholders have highlighted the importance of broad and inclusive public consultation to ensure the Statement clearly reflects the views of the community. This consultation process will reach more Australians and is the next phase of this important, ongoing conversation. Input from the submissions and these consultations will be used to further inform the development of the Statement, including policy themes, indicators and next steps.

Emerging policy themes

A number of themes have emerged from what we have heard in submissions and consultations, as well as lessons and insights from domestic and international approaches, including the OECD's framework, and other countries' wellbeing reports (see Table 1). These emerging themes have been grouped into five areas - Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable, Cohesive and Healthy. This is a first attempt at describing the qualities in the economy and society that are likely to be useful in providing a greater understanding of community wellbeing. They represent what we have heard so far and are not necessarily the final policy themes that will be included in the Statement. They provide one way of representing the themes emerging, offering a basis for discussion in this next round of consultation.

One lesson that has emerged from consultations and international experience is that 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. For example, the OECD framework has 15 policy areas framed with traditional titles such as housing, health, work and job quality, and civic engagement. While these are likely to be important themes for the wellbeing of Australians, the large number of areas do not allow for adequate consideration of the interrelated nature of housing, work, and an inclusive society. Associated with each emerging theme is a set of draft descriptions. Draft descriptions provide detail on the components of each theme in an easy-to-understand way. For example, an inclusive society is one that shares resources and opportunities, strives for gender equality and has representative leadership in government and business. Some of

these elements may be cross-cutting across the five themes, for example gender equality or the quality of core institutions and we would welcome views on how best to reflect cross cutting themes in the framework.

Measuring What Matters indicators

The policy themes will be supported by metrics or indicators. Draft descriptions provide suggestions as to which indicators could be used for measuring wellbeing and progress overtime for each theme. For example, for the draft description - feeling safe at home, online and in the community - metrics such as rates of domestic violence, online scams or perceptions of safety when out at night are likely to be relevant and understandable indicators.

Feedback has already been sought on indicators through written submissions, including specific indicators and suitable data sources. Further feedback on, and suggestions for, indicators is welcomed, particularly in response to the themes outlined in table 1.

Where possible and where supporting input is available, indicators will be chosen to provide information that captures the different experiences and outcomes of people across Australia.

The consultation process will help to ensure balance when developing the first set of indicators. There is a natural inclination to capture the richness of what matters to Australians by including many indicators. However, the larger the number of indicators, the harder it will be to better understand our economy and society and support more informed policy making and improved accountability.

To this end, the first Measuring What Matters Statement is likely to be relatively high-level and concise to ensure that it is accessible and meaningful to as many people as possible.

The emerging themes, associated draft descriptions and indicators will continue to be refined to reflect the input from consultations, further research, data availability and changes in what matters to the community.

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.

Table 1. Emerging policy themes and draft descriptions

Prosperous A growing, productive and resilient economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An economy that provides opportunities for all Australians.• An economy that is more resilient and less vulnerable to shocks.• People are financially secure.• People have access to education, knowledge and training so they have the skills to fully participate in society and the economy throughout their life.• People have access to necessary services and amenities.• A sustainable budget that can continue to deliver the services Australians rely on and can buffer the economy against future shocks.• A dynamic economy, which encourages and offers opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship.• An economy that seizes the opportunities from the net zero transition and digitisation.

<p>Inclusive</p> <p>A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A society that allows all people to afford life's essentials. • A society that provides people access to secure, well-paying jobs. • A society that supports social and economic accessibility and intergenerational mobility. • Gender equality, including at work and in the community. • A society that supports diversity and equity. • Leadership in government and business that is representative of our diverse society.
<p>Sustainable</p> <p>A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy natural environment for current and future generations, protected from the damage being caused by climate change. • A society and economy that is resilient and adapting to a changing climate. • A society that sustainably uses our natural resources, on track to reach to net zero emissions. • A society that values the social, cultural and economic significance of our natural environment.
<p>Cohesive</p> <p>A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A society where people feel safe at home, online and in the community. • 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. • A society that has close relationships with family and friends. • A government that is trusted by the public. • People participate in the democratic process and engage in their community. • A society that supports engagement in the community through volunteering or other means.
<p>Healthy</p> <p>A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A society in which people are in good physical health. • A society in which people are in good mental health. • A society that ensures the health and development of its children. • A society in which people are generally satisfied with their life. • A society where people have enough time for family, friends, personal interests and their community. • A society that values the contributions of all regardless of health or ability.

- The Government has committed to release a standalone Measuring What Matters Statement (the Statement) following the May 2023-24 Budget.
- The Statement will bring together economic, social and environmental indicators. It will provide a more comprehensive picture of whether policies are working and support more informed discussions about what needs to be done to improve the lives of all Australians.
- The Government publishes many progress and wellbeing indicators already, but Australia does not have an overarching national framework for measuring what matters.
- The Statement is intended to complement, rather than replace, more detailed progress reports such as Closing the Gap and the State of the Environment Report.
- The Statement will consider a broad range of economic, social and environmental issues.
- The scope of the Statement will be determined by public feedback, international research and issues such as data availability.

Why is consultation important?

- The Government is committed to working closely with the community to develop the Statement. The community is best placed to advise on the issues that matter to them.
- A broad approach to consultation will ensure the Statement reflects a diverse set of views and resonates with Australians.

How will Kooyong's input to the Statement be used?

- The Government will carefully consider all input received from Australians and will use it to inform the final selection of policy themes, indicators and next steps.

Response from Kooyong

- We sought feedback from community representatives via social media and our electorate newsletter.
- Although we had relatively little lead-in time, 140 individuals offered to attend. We selected a representative cross-section from the electorate and brought them together within a week for an evening of discussion and consultation.
- Responses are summarised below.
- Feedback from the session was excellent.
- We plan to run similar sessions annually and are grateful to the government for this opportunity to feedback about What Matters to our community.

Attachment: Measuring What Matters: Consultation Feedback form

To be completed by meeting host after each meeting and returned to measuringwhatmatters@treasury.gov.au by 26 May 2023.

Meeting details

Meeting host name/ organisation: Monique Ryan MP

Meeting host contact details [phone or email]: Monique.Ryan.MP@aph.gov.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: 1/05/2023

Meeting location: Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library, Cnr Cotham Road and Civic Drive, Kew VIC 3101

Participants attending:

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

Number of participants: 60

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 commonly discussed issues were those of the 'affordability' of and 'access' to education, healthcare, housing and basic services and amenities. These issues garnered the votes of majority of participants. All were eager to see high material living standards as central to discussions of future wellbeing.

The issue of climate change and sustainability was seen as cross-cutting across all emerging policy areas. Climate change was widely regarded as a major threat to future wellbeing, with participants highlighting the fact that our capacity to provide affordable and accessible services would be undermined without urgent climate action.

The caring economy was also emphasised by participants who felt that high-quality aged care, childcare and mental health care were neglected by a focus on market-based economic indicators and were tantamount to future wellbeing.

Finally, each of these issues was strongly underscored by the need for a government that is trusted by the public. Community members felt that a government that could not be trusted would be unable to effectively provide for the future wellbeing of its citizens.

The emerging policy themes did well to encourage dialogue on, and capture much of the discussion around future wellbeing. The one exception to this, as was pointed out by a number of participants, was that discussions of future wellbeing appeared to be siloed to the domestic Australian context, ignoring our role as a member of the international community. Some participants felt that future wellbeing at home could not be addressed sufficiently without at least some consideration of the wellbeing of the population of the world, particularly given that issues affecting our future increasingly require cross-border collaboration.

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

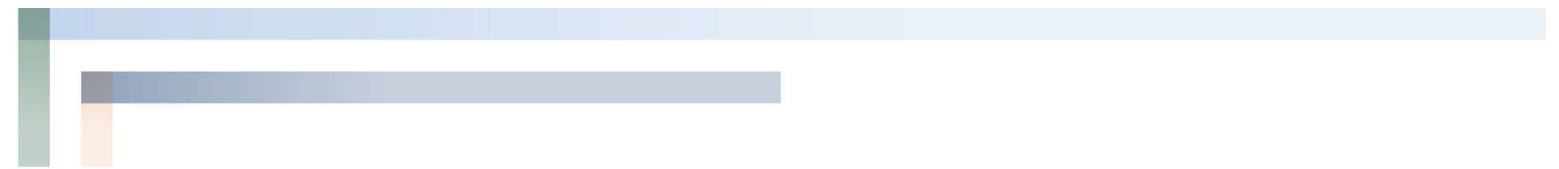
The majority of participants felt that the descriptions were appropriate, and most of their suggestions fit neatly under one heading or another with a few exceptions.

Some suggested that the 'prosperous' policy theme might be more reflective of future wellbeing if it were reframed in terms of 'productivity'. Given that participants felt most drawn to the sub-heading regarding knowledge and education, the forum felt generally that prosperity was more intrinsically linked to the abilities of the community to contribute in such ways that they could, rather than the wealth of a nation generally.

Some participants also struggled with finding an appropriate descriptor that encompassed care work. Many felt that their priorities of childcare, mental health care and aged care were not addressed by any one of the five emerging policy themes yet were vital to a framework designed to look at wellbeing from a non-market perspective.

While trust in government was popularly voted as one of the most important issues concerning future wellbeing, some participants felt that this descriptor did not sufficiently cover issues of general transparency in and efficiency of government, which were seen as instrumental to the delivery of future wellbeing.

Finally, in recognition of the importance of international wellbeing to future domestic wellbeing, an amendment to the emerging policy themes to encompass the role that foreign policy has on wellbeing would help better measure progress.



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

None identified.

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

The forum would like further information on how best to assess, measure and track changes in community wellbeing. We'd be interested in the extent to which different measures might be of value at different life stages, and in any data on how communities can best reconcile the differing values and desires of different parts of the population.