

Measuring what matters

Attachment A: Measuring What Matters: Consultation Feedback form

Consult hub

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1 Meeting Host Name

Menzies Institute for Medical REsearch

2 Organisation (if individual please enter N/A)

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4 Phone

[REDACTED]

5 Meeting host

Academic

6 Other

Not answered

7 Meeting date

10 May 2023

8 Meeting location

Virtual

- 9 Location/City/Town
Not answered
- 10 State
Not answered
- 11 Participants attending
Academics
- 12 Other
Not answered
- 13 Number of participants
21
- 14 1. Did the five emerging policy themes Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable, Cohesive and Healthy resonate with meeting participants?
Yes
- 15 If not, why not (200 words)
Not answered
- 16 2. Which of the following themes are most important to you? (Select 3)
Healthy: A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future
Sustainable: A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations
Inclusive: A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate
- 17 3. Which themes or descriptions were most frequently discussed? (Select 3)
Healthy: A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future
Prosperous: A growing, productive and resilient economy

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

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

Many of the outcomes of wellbeing are determined and influenced by factors often beyond personal choices – where you live and the amenity there, your education level, access to healthy food and care and support service, safety, employment, housing, connections with others, the natural environment and your physical and mental health all contribute to individual and community level wellbeing. This has been captured by the themes and descriptions.

These factors are strongly interconnected requiring them to be simultaneously considered and addressed in policy efforts. Our individual and collective wellbeing are largely determined by policies that guide actions beyond the health and social care and support sector. Policy in every sector of government can potentially affect wellbeing and inequities in health. This emphasises the importance of policy coherence and avoiding policies that contradict and then weaken each other.

The government adopting a Health in All Policies approach should assist in greater policy coherence to address the determinants of wellbeing. Health in All Policies aims to address policies such as those influencing, for example, transport, housing and urban planning, the environment, education, agriculture, finance, taxation and economic development so that they promote overall health and wellbeing and equity.

We have made suggestions for refining the descriptions and themes to ensure that all of these important factors are captured.

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

We recommend that the descriptions have an active rather than passive voice and have provided example to reflect this below.

Prosperous - A sustainable, productive and resilient economy

Add - An economy that protects and values the social, cultural and economic significance of our natural environment

An economy that delivers opportunities for all Australians.

An economy that ensures all people are financially secure.

An economy that ensures all people have access to necessary services, amenities and the basics of life

Delete - a sustainable budget that can continue to deliver the service Australian rely on and can buffer the economy against future shocks – we have merged this into the refined

descriptions above

Inclusive - A society that shares opportunities and enables all people to fully participate
A society that ensures all people can afford life's essentials.

Delete - gender equality, including at work and in the community - which we strongly support however have incorporated all forms of equality and equity in the dot point below

A society that celebrates, respects and supports equality, diversity and equity including at work and in the community.

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

A society that values and protects the social, cultural and economic significance of our natural environment.

A healthy natural environment for current and future generations, where the damage caused by climate change and human impacts are minimised and prevented.

Cohesive - A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation

A society that has closed the gap and values First Nations culture.

Delete - a society that has close relationships with family and friends - we have incorporated this in healthy

A society that supports and values engagement and connection in the community through volunteering or other means

Healthy - A society in which people of all ages feel well and are in their best possible physical and mental health now and into the future

A society in which all people of all ages are in their best possible physical health.

A society that ensures the health and development of its children and young people.

A society that values the contributions of all regardless of health, age, gender or ability.

Add - A society where people are supported through care and support responding to their needs across the life course

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

As a general recommendation we believe that there are good measures in existing ABS surveys to cover most of the descriptions attributed to the themes. Continuing to deliver these surveys regularly is important to ensure that change is monitored. Participants in our session contributed the following suggestions for indicators and data sources.

ABS Surveys such as the National Health Survey (NHS) are important regular measures of many wellbeing determinants – physical activity, mental health, social connection, food security, education, chronic conditions for example.

National Health Survey, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/australias-children/contents/data-sources/survey-data-sources>

Food security - We note that in the NHS the 2-question exploration of food security is insufficient when compared to how this is measured in other jurisdictions. We suggest it is better measured using the U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module Six-Item Short Form (HFSSM) or the Ten-item short form which captures children and adults experience. The HFSSM has been included in the National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey which is currently collecting data. In turn, where food security is measured in other ABS survey the HFSSM tool should be used. The dimensions of food are explored. It seeks responses to six questions that self-report uncertain, insufficient or inadequate food access, availability and utilization due to limited financial resources, and the compromised food consumption that may result. We would recommend adopting the HFSSM as a measure of the basics of life or life essentials and embedding it in future NHS data collection.

ABS General Social Survey that measures life satisfaction, personal stressors and feeling rushed for time, social experiences, family and community support, involvement in Social, Community support, and Civic and political groups, cultural tolerance and discrimination, trust, sexual orientation, financial stress, voluntary and unpaid work, and unpaid work at home.

Be particularly mindful of monitoring :

- underemployment by location
- people in financial distress, numbers of bankruptcies, insolvencies, demand on food banks etc, changes in mortgage defaults
- people living below the poverty line

Data gaps - We suggest ongoing monitoring should include the number of people impacted by extremes weather events

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

Evidence informed policy making, and actively pursuing policy coherence so there is stronger alignment with key policies across areas of government that impact wellbeing.

General feedback

1. We are very encouraged by the principles particularly if they are adopted to actively inform government policy
2. All of the five themes are individually and collectively important
3. We are curious about the time frame for implementation for the framework and how it will be monitored. We recommend the Statement and framework include short-term, medium-term and long-term targets for each of the themes and a clear regular reporting

of progress.

4. When the government uses the framework to develop policy it should be informed by the evidence from research and sector expertise, this is missing in many areas of policy making at the moment.