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To whom it may concern,

Thankyou for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on Measuring What Matters – Second Phase. My name is Tan Nguyen. I am a registered oral health therapist, with formal qualifications in public health and clinical education. I am trained health economist and have over 15 years of experience in public health, with a focus on oral health. My experiences span across the public and private practice, health practitioner regulation, policy, advocacy, clinical education and health economics research.

The proposed five policy themes capture the important aspects of wellbeing, and the proposed descriptions articulate them well. As encouraged, I wish to emphasise that a key health area explicitly missing from the 'Health' theme is '**oral health**'.

Priority for oral health continues to be missing from the Australian government policy directions. Good oral health remains integral to addressing at least three of the five National Health Priority Areas, namely cardiovascular health,¹⁻⁴ mental health,⁵⁻⁸ and diabetes mellitus.⁹⁻¹² Appointing Australia's first Commonwealth Chief Dental Officer is critical to advance the oral health policy agenda,¹³ which will have significant health and economic productivity co-benefits.

International recognition of the importance to improve global oral health by the World Health Organization (WHO) has made foundational progress through the accepted WHO Global Oral Health Strategy and the WHO Oral Health Action Plan 2023-2030. Indeed,

'Oral health matters. The teeth and mouth are an integral part of the body, supporting and enabling essential human functions, and the mouth is a fundamental feature of personal identity.'¹⁴

and

'Oral health can be defined as being multidimensional in nature, including physical, psychological, emotional, and social domains that are integral to overall health and wellbeing. Oral health is subjective and dynamic, enabling eating, speaking, smiling, and socialising, without discomfort, pain, or embarrassment. Good oral health reflects an individual's ability to adapt to physiological changes throughout life and to maintain their own teeth and mouth through independent self care.'¹⁴

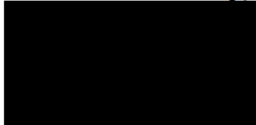
I strongly recommend the inclusion of a specific indicator related to oral health within the 'Health' theme as follows: '**A society in which people are in good oral health.**'

Under the specific indicators for oral health, I would recommend at least four key questions that were used in the National Study of Adult Oral Health 2017–18¹⁵:

1. Percentage of people avoiding foods due to dental problems in the Australian population
2. Percentage of people rating their oral health fair or poor in the Australian dentate population
3. Percentage of people experiencing toothache in the Australian dentate population
4. Percentage of people who were uncomfortable about dental appearance in the Australian population

Thankyou for the opportunity to respond to the Measuring What Matters – Second Phase consultation.

Yours sincerely,



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