

# Measuring what matters

## Attachment A: Measuring What Matters: Consultation Feedback form

Consult hub

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Response received at:

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1 Meeting Host Name

TACSI

2 Organisation (if individual please enter N/A)

The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI)

3 Email

dominic.ephraums@tacsi.org.au

4 Phone

[REDACTED]

5 Meeting host

Non-government organisation

6 Other

Not answered

7 Meeting date

23 May 1923

8 Meeting location

Virtual

- 9 Location/City/Town  
Not answered
- 10 State  
Not answered
- 11 Participants attending  
Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- 12 Other  
Organisation Members
- 13 Number of participants  
27
- 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)  
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
- 17 3. Which themes or descriptions were most frequently discussed? (Select 3)  
Inclusive: A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate  
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

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

A lack of significant investment in children and young people. Evidence about Adverse Childhood Effects (ACE's) research, knowledge about the first "2000 days" and data that states that half of all adult mental health challenges have their origins in childhood, surely states the case for securing their future wellbeing first. While not specific to children and young people, each of the following issues can be directly applied to children and young people as significant concerns / considerations for their wellbeing now and in the future.

Technology is a big missing piece from the themes and has an impact on current and future wellbeing - access to technology, education, tech literacy, data security and regulation is paramount. Technology is at the core of our functions. This is of particular importance when wanting / needing to access information and support and is a great means of social connection for many. Furthermore, it has far reaching considerations for other themes such as healthy, cohesive, inclusive and prosperous and sustainable (e.g. electric vehicles, battery manufacturing and renewable energy).

Approaching this with a systemic understanding is crucial in order to be able to shift systemic barriers getting in the way of wellbeing.

Education should be in every theme and be for many different purposes - identity, contribution to community, understanding of other cultures and people, cohesive, holistic, understanding of histories and wellbeing.

Mental health is critically important for society and a significant aspect of mental health and wellbeing is feeling a sense of belonging and comfort in your identity and your place in society. We must shift the idea of inclusivity and diversity to one actively standing against those views, actions and words that marginalises people. Name them and use actionable language - society is not inclusive, it is anti-discriminatory, anti-racist, etc.

Seeing the dominant culture as an equal part of diversity rather than diversity needing to be invited and accepted into the dominant culture.

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

#### Cohesive:

Only mentioning 'First Nations culture' dismisses the importance of reconciliation and recognition of systemic injustice. Similarly, the word 'value' is extractive and should be changed to respecting. The theme 'Cohesive' could be better described as 'Safe and Connected'. A genuinely cohesive society would be inclusive, these concepts are interconnected. The role of people and communities should be included, such as peer to peer and the agency of communities to drive wellbeing alongside formal support.

#### Inclusive:

The word suggests othering and/or an 'us and them' situation where the dominant culture is open to including others as opposed to diverse peoples being, belonging and co-creating a shared society. Language must be actionable - and name what 'inclusive' is tackling (e.g. racism, homophobia, transphobia, etc.) and recognise that people are being marginalised by the words, actions and processes of dominant culture. Furthermore, there needs to be far more emphasis on First Nations Peoples.

#### Healthy:

This is foundational to social wellbeing to co-create healthy societies. In an evolving society and economy how do we, as physical and emotional beings, stay well - needs more actionable language and ideas. Must consider and describe a more holistic view of wellbeing and all its facets in addition to acknowledging diverse understandings of wellbeing.

#### Sustainable:

Sustainability language is more extractive than regenerative, consider regenerative language and the connections to Country and learnings from the many thousands of years of custodianship of the land First Nations Peoples have.

#### Prosperous:

Assumes a growth mindset which is currently the status quo (e.g. everything focusing on education > job > economic growth) and this is at odds with sustainability if we are not including social and planetary factors. Consider how to unify this with other themes by reframing our meaning of 'prosperous' and engaging in different economic systems.

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

There should be an investment in a mixed methods approach to inform emerging policy themes and actions rather than traditional data sources. There are opportunities to leverage existing qualitative data collection currently collected across a myriad of NFPs,

social enterprises and others. However, the government would need to ensure appropriate data governance, protection, consents and regulation were developed. There is current quantitative data available from a child and family experience in SA (BetterStart - Adelaide University. Furthermore, we recommend reviewing the work undertaken by Dr. Jo-An Occhipinti and colleagues of the Brain and Mind Centre, Sydney University around the concept of 'Mental Wealth' (Paper: Estimating the Mental Wealth of nations: valuing social production and investment), aiming to put monetary value on 'mental wealth' and 'social production' e.g. someone occasionally caring for the wellbeing of their neighbour as they are single and not very mobile. (Link to paper: Estimating the Mental Wealth of nations: valuing social production and investment)

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

First Nations culture should be foregrounded and this statement must go beyond 'supporting' and Closing the Gap.

Perhaps there is an additional theme focussed purely on participation (from and with citizens, e.g. deliberative democracy, citizens juries, etc). The type of participation that is centred on collective problem solving, innovation, collective responsibility, creativity, adaptability. The type of participation that is and of itself a positive outcome and supports us to be on the collective front foot with an ever changing world. Include community participation in sustainability. The phrase, 'on track to reach net zero' lacks punch, actionability and any real commitment. How might citizens be enabled to participate (community renewable energy projects?), what do we need as we currently lack fundamental systems.

General Amendments:

While generally positive and for some hopeful, our team felt the descriptions are too open to interpretation and lack actionability or accountability. They must become more like concrete steps to reach these overarching themes and less like lofty goals. These descriptions should speak to equipping people for change, to be flexible and responsive to a changing world and speak to the value and importance of imagination, creativity, innovation, striving to be better and embracing change as the ways to reach these goals, the how. These themes should be prioritised with cohesive placed first. Furthermore, there needs to be an articulation and focus on intersectionality - both to hold a wholeness perspective and address the experiences of people experiencing compounding challenges.