

# WELLBEING INDICATORS

## REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

### WELLBEING INDICATORS

**The ACT Government is developing a set of wellbeing indicators to help our community better understand and track the drivers of a good life.**

In the past, measures of progress have typically focussed on economic metrics such as growth in incomes and Gross State Product. Wellbeing indicators monitor our progress across a broader range of areas that matter to the community, like our health, environment and relationships with others.

There is no single definition of wellbeing – members of any community will have different perspectives of what affects their quality of life and that of others. However, there are likely to be a range of attributes we value as a community and consider important enough to make a priority. It is these shared values that we aim to capture in the ACT's wellbeing framework.



The ACT Government has started a conversation with the community about what matters for wellbeing and how we should measure or track this in the years to come. Our indicators will be able to measure our progress over time and highlight those areas where progress hasn't been evenly felt.

The aim is to have a set of indicators which can be tracked at the Territory level, as well as on a more disaggregated basis like geographic areas and particular community cohorts. This will be important to ensure we are able to properly see and understand the full range of life experiences people have within our community.

### THE CONVERSATION

**On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019, as part of series of similar sessions, we held a facilitated roundtable with representatives of groups which provide services, advocacy or support within a variety of sectors in Canberra.**

The roundtable considered Canberra's values and how Canberra's wellbeing could be described at the moment. Through group exercises, participants identified key descriptions of wellbeing and ways these descriptions could be measured.

These conversations took place to help us understand what matters to Canberrans when it comes to quality of life and the drivers of our wellbeing. This was part of the first phase of development for our ACT Wellbeing Indicators, and stakeholders will be actively invited to participate and have their say through all phases of engagement.

### The roundtable identified general areas of wellbeing in the ACT which included:

#### **Civic engagement | Governance**

- Recognise the relationship between civic engagement and community connectedness
- Improved decision making at all levels for all members of the community
- Increased involvement of children and young people in engagement activities
- Decrease in recidivism and access to justice and legal support

#### **Connected community | Equality and inclusion | Transport**

- Sense of belonging and being valued
- Access for all to affordable places to meet and interact, ability to participate in activities; sporting, music hubs, hobbies, interests etc
- Better interaction across gender, age and demographic groups
- Local storytelling encouraged; engaged local media
- Access to active travel and frequent public transport across the city; affordable fares and night-time services

#### **Cultural connection | Identity | Indigenous**

- Increased cultural awareness, competency, inclusion and safety across the community, indigenous, refugees, migrants, gender diversity
- Build cohesive sense of identity that respects and includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Indigenous families have equal life outcomes; suicide rates, incarceration rates, out-of-home care, access and inclusion

#### **Environment and climate change**

- Urban planning supports low environmental footprint, integrated walking, cycling, urban parks, access to green spaces, improved energy ratings on buildings
- Increased personal responsibility, such as reducing use of plastics, improved recycling, impacts on waterways etc
- Improved biodiversity and healthy population of threatened and endangered species
- Access to efficient and renewable energy

#### **Education and lifelong learning**

- Education opportunities across all ages, regardless of financial status and geographic location
- Increased investment in early years of education
- Education linked to employment opportunities and outside the formal education system

#### **Health**

- Prevention and early detection, including encouraging health behaviours
- Accessible, timely, quality health care for all
- Improving health outcomes of marginalised groups



### Housing

- Housing is available for all – disability housing, low income, refugee, migrants, homeless
- Amenity of housing is high – location, proximity to public transport, suitable to individual needs, green space and trees
- Affordable rental opportunities exist

### Living standards | Economic

- Economic independence; capacity to provide for family
- Satisfaction and meaningful contribution – employment, volunteering, carer etc
- Access to services – food, housing, green spaces, internet speeds
- Employment opportunities

### Self-determination | Time

- People are empowered to make choices about how they spend their time – carer responsibilities, work/life balance, holidays, sport, cultural, sleep etc
- Flexible work arrangements
- Empowered for self-determination; make their own decisions, including in care and death

### Safety

- Feeling safe is important
- Safety for all, across all aspects of the community; at home, road, online, public transport, school, workplace, pubs, clubs, gyms
- Investment in emergency services and police force

The information above is presented in the groupings that were used during the roundtable. This Listening Report captures the sentiments of proceedings at a high level. All input provided to the roundtables will be considered in the development of the Wellbeing Indicators for the ACT.

## WHO ENGAGED

**The Roundtable engaged with a diverse range of representatives from groups including:**

ACT Courts and Tribunal, ACT Heritage Council, Australian National University, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Young People, Better Renting, Canberra Community Clubs, Carers ACT, Care Financial Consulting, Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union Create Foundation, Minister's Creative Council, Council on the Ageing, Early Childhood Advisory Council, Gambling and Racing Commission, Hands Across Canberra, Heart Foundation, Housing ACT, Inner South Community Council, Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services Australia Inc, National Disability Services, Red Cross, St Vincent De Paul Society, Tuggeranong Community Council, YWCA Canberra.

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## WHAT'S NEXT?

**This was the third in a series of public stakeholder roundtables.**

Four roundtables with the community were held during July 2019. The feedback from all these roundtables, along with other community feedback begins the process of domain and indicator initial design in partnership with academics and wellbeing specialists. Further consultation and engagement with the broader Canberra community to get feedback on a proposed set of indicators will take place from September to November 2019.