

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 2nd 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:

Social connections | Identity and belonging | Happiness and fulfilment

- A happy community with a sense of home, pride, and belonging in Canberra
- People have balanced, low stress, satisfying jobs and lives connected to family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and the broad community
- Inclusive community with social trust, cultural diversity, connection, and equity – no one isolated
- Community spaces bringing people together

Improving wellbeing for underrepresented groups | Equality and equity

- Acceptance, respect, sensitivity, and equality for people of all identities, genders, ages, abilities, cultures, religions, and sexualities, with representation and participation reflecting and supporting diversity
- The vulnerable and marginalised are heard, supported and can contribute meaningfully to the community, free of stigma
- No poverty, barriers, or inequality and focus on improving the lives of the most disadvantaged
- Full inclusion

Health

- Affordable, timely access to quality physical and mental health services
- Healthy diets, weights, and active lifestyles
- Preventative programs

Natural environment

- Access and connection to nature, and use of natural spaces
- Increased urban green space for enjoyment and aesthetic value
- Healthy environment – clean, valued, protected
- Less waste and landfill, increased recycling and renewables, and reduced emissions

Urban environment and transport | Safety

- Genuine safety and security for everyone at home and in the city with no abuse, violence, or crime
- Easy transport infrastructure, with increased uptake of active travel and public transport
- Quality planning and accessible design with urban greenspace

Income and Work | Time

- Work life balance with time for family, friends, fun and connection
- Meaningful, flexible, stable and family friendly work with reasonable work hours and comfortable incomes
- No barriers to work, no working poor or poverty, and reduction in income disparity

Housing

- Liking where and how you live
- Safe, warm, secure, affordable, quality, sustainable, aesthetic, accessible, age friendly homes for all Canberrans. No homelessness
- Suit the needs of the residents

- Design supports social connection

Education | Children

- Educational opportunities for children and adults which are engaging, meet needs and provide positive educational outcomes
- Everyone had a sound education to participate in society and make valuable contributions
- Well-resourced education facilities
- Teachers and students happy, safe and supported

Community

- Community members work together, volunteer, participate, engage, interact, connect, collaborate and trust
- Access to well-resourced community organisations and services
- Diverse

Government

- The community is satisfied with elected representatives
- Systems work and are engaging, inclusive, responsive, and well resourced
- People are heard, decisions aren't made by people with vested interests

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:

Aids Action Council, Volunteering and Contact ACT, Environmental Defenders Office ACT, ACT Council of Social Service, Mental Health Consumer Network, Gungahlin Community Council, Combined Community Councils ACT, Nutrition Australia, National Council of Women, Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, Canberra Business Chamber, UNSW Canberra, Advocacy for Inclusion, Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner, Conservation Council, Australian National University, Public Health Association Australia, Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australia, Tuggeranong Community Council, A Gender Agenda, National Council of Women, Families ACT, Multicultural Advisory Council.

WHAT'S NEXT?

This was the first in a series of 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.