

WELLBEING ROUNDTABLES

NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD



ACT WELLBEING FRAMEWORK

The Chief Minister has announced that a broad set of wellbeing indicators will be launched on Canberra Day 2020.

Measures of progress in jurisdictions, including Canberra, have typically focussed on economic metrics such as growth in incomes and Gross State Product. Wellbeing indicators will monitor our progress across a broad range of areas of value to the community, going beyond the traditional economic lens of reporting.

There is no single definition of wellbeing – members of any community will have different perspectives of what affects their quality of life and the quality of life of others, and consequently what they consider the priorities should be for the framework. However, there are likely to be a range of attributes we value as a community and consider important enough to be of priority. It is these collectively valued attributes of our society that we wish to capture in our wellbeing framework.



Since July, the ACT Government has engaged across broad cross-sections of the ACT community to inform the development of draft Wellbeing Domains and measures of progress. This has included community/peak bodies roundtables, YourSay Community Panel website and surveys, engagement with Ministerial Advisory Councils and representative groups, as well as targeted engagement with hard to reach Canberrans including partnership with community organisations.

Across that engagement a range of key themes have emerged out of which twelve draft Wellbeing Domains and a range of possible Indicators have been identified.

THE CONVERSATION

On 18 and 22 November 2019, facilitated roundtables were held involving representatives of groups which provide services, advocacy or support within a variety of sectors across the ACT.

The roundtables considered the draft Wellbeing Domains and the potential measures or indicators of wellbeing that could relate to each Domain. Through group-based discussions, participants in the roundtables reviewed the emerging headline indicators for each Domain and provided feedback on areas of priority.



The roundtables provided the following feedback on priorities indicators with respect to each of the draft Wellbeing Domains:

Physical and mental health

- Consider a focus on early intervention and prevention
- Equitable access to quality health services that are affordable and timely
- Subjective wellbeing was not a good fit in the Health domain, although it was recognised that subjective wellbeing has a role in the framework
- The option of using physical activity rather than healthy weight, or considering healthy lifestyle
- There was some concern expressed about the 'self-rating' of physical and mental health

Education and life-long learning

- Value of life-skills, resilience and education outcomes that prepare for future employment needs were identified as important measures
- Measuring education outcomes across all demographics was suggested

Living standards

- It was suggested that housing is an important measure of living standards
- Cost of living, or costs of essentials, including housing, was noted as a high priority
- Access to data and consideration of gender inequality with respect to wealth was highlighted

Housing and home

- Homelessness was identified as the higher priority measure
- Housing affordability and appropriateness of housing were also noted as important measures

Environment

- Climate resilience was identified as a high priority
- The identified emerging headline indicators were not supported; alternative suggestions included food supply chain efficiency, healthy waterways, affordable renewable energy, planning processes and a sustainable natural environment.

Social connection

- Measuring connection and quality of relationships with family and friends was suggested
- Mixed feedback was received on the inclusion of recidivism as a measure
- In addition to measuring participation in community activities, it was suggested that accessibility to community facilities may also be a useful measure

Belonging and cultural identity

- Shared sense of belonging and cultural respect and inclusion were identified as high priorities for measurement
- It was suggested that the term 'multiculturalism' needed more explanation as it is very broad

Governance and institutions

- Mixed feedback was received with respect to measuring trust in government
- Measuring the contribution of the citizen's voice to decision making was identified as a high priority

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Safety

- Feeling safe and building resilience were identified as the highest priorities
- Online safety and consideration of vulnerable members of the community were also highlighted

Time use

- Work-life balance was identified as a high measurement priority
- Inclusion of measures for leisure time and satisfaction with time/activities were suggested
- Mixed discussion regarding whether time use should be included under living standards or remain as a separate Domain. If linked under living standards, it was suggested that the Domain could be called 'quality of life' or 'life pressures'

Mobility and accessibility

- Wellbeing of the most vulnerable in our community, reducing inequalities of access and integrated specialised services were highlighted as measurement priorities
- Diversity and frequency of intersection and inclusion across the community was also highlighted

Economy and region

- Economic performance was recognised as a good measure
- Suggested the word prosperity may be more appropriate than economy

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 roundtables engaged with a diverse range of representatives from groups including:

ACT Council of Social Service; ACT Healthcare Consumer Association; ACT LGBTIQ+ Ministerial Advisory Council; Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT; Australian Human Rights Commission; Australian National University; Australian Nursing and Midwifery Foundation; Brindabella Christian College; Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy; Canberra City Care; Canberra Institute of Technology; Canberra Multicultural Community Forum; Carers ACT; Catholic Care; CFMEU; Coalition of Major Participants Sports ACT; Communities at Work; Construction Charitable Works, ACT Branch; Diabetes NSW; Environmental Defence Office; Families ACT; Forum Australia; Gungahlin Community Council; Hands Across Canberra; Havelock Housing; Health Complaints Commissioner ACT; Heart Foundation; Inner South Canberra Community Council; Landcare ACT; Minister's Creative Council (Belconnen Arts); Monash Sustainable Development Institute; Multicultural Advisory Council; Multicultural Communities Council Illawarra; Multicultural Seniors Group; Multicultural Youth Services ACT; Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care; Pedal Power ACT; Planning Institute Australia; Public Health Association of Australia; St Vincent de Paul; Tenants Consultative Group; Tuggeranong Community Council; Unions ACT; University of Canberra; Volunteering ACT; Women's Centre for Health Matters; Women's Legal Centre; Women with Disabilities ACT; YWCA Canberra.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The feedback provided from these roundtables will inform the finalisation of the ACT Wellbeing Framework for launch on Canberra Day 2020.