

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 Friday 12th 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:

Environment and sustainability

- Minimising Canberra's environmental footprint through policy, waste management, employment of sustainable practices, and use of renewable energy
- Eco-friendly urban planning that incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar panels
- Maintenance of green spaces and improved access to nature

Regional | Global Focus

- Being regional and global leaders across a range of areas; in particular environment and sustainability

Time | Consumption

- The right balance between work and life by having enough time for leisure, family, work, self, and friends
- Access to necessary resources to work effectively and efficiently
- Acknowledging the importance of volunteer and unpaid work

Education

- Accessible, affordable, high quality education for all from early childhood to tertiary qualifications
- Diversity of curriculum to support all learning levels
- Appropriate knowledge to prepare for community involvement and future employment
- Appropriate support and funding for teachers

Individual wellbeing

- Individual physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing; including time use, health, and self-management skills
- Feel represented in the community

Prosperity

- Prosperous community where all members have sufficient employment opportunities and income
- Broader focus on prosperity in terms other than economics

Innovation

- Consideration and support of non 'business as usual' approaches to solving problems
- Support for start-ups and mentoring opportunities

Sport and recreation

- Removal of barriers, male, female and all-abilities participation pathways from youth to adulthood
- Access to sport, recreational and cultural events

Cultural engagement

- Celebrate, respect, and embrace cultural diversity and actively participate in our multicultural community



- Reduction in racism/hate, less negativity throughout the community against certain cohorts/minorities
- Participation in and access to sporting, recreational, and cultural events within the community
- Formalise opportunities for consultation with cultural groups in policy processes

Health

- Access to consistent, quality, timely, and affordable physical and mental health services
- Promotion of physical activity and proper nutrition for prevention
- Focus on preventative measures against suicide and substance abuse

Reconciliation

- Treaty with traditional owners and adoption of Uluru Statement
- Increased education about indigenous culture, language and heritage
- Respect for diverse identities and protection of cultural heritage

Inclusion and equality

- Remove barriers and decrease social inequity by improving cohesion and inclusion throughout the community regardless of gender, sexuality, race, disability, or age

Governance

- Transparency and accountability in decision making
- Inclusion of community in decision making processes
- Increased data sharing and data governance

Social integration

- Individuals have equal opportunities regardless of gender, age, sexuality, race, or disability
- Diversity throughout the community adds value and is embraced and celebrated
- Members of the community are active and engaged and not socially isolated in their homes

Accessibility

- Increased access to services (transport, access, communication)
- Adequate public services including health, emergency, housing and welfare

Safety

- Sense of safety for all members of the community when at home and when in public against potential transport, infrastructure, online, housing, economic, work, or school harms

Housing

- Affordable, accessible, and secure housing available for everyone
- Safe housing for disadvantaged, disabled, and vulnerable community

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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:

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, Community Housing Canberra, Housing ACT, Communities at Work, Transport Canberra and Community Services, Fleming Athletics ACT, Youth Coalition, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Health, Ministry Advisory Council on Women ACT, Landcare Australia, ACT Policing, Screen Canberra, ACT Climate Change Council, ACT Government, Minister Rattenbury's Office, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, Health Care Consumers' Association, Housing Industry Association, Uniting Care Kippax, Australian Medical Association, Women With Disabilities ACT, and ACT Corrective Services.

WHAT'S NEXT?

This was the fourth 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.