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Chief Minister

Treasurer

Minister for Climate Action

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Minister for Tourism

Member for Kurrajong

The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP

Treasurer

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: ChalmersDLO@TREASURY.GOV.AU
(cc/ MeasuringWhatMatters@Treasury.gov.au)

Dear Treasurer *Jim*

I am writing to you regarding the *Measuring What Matters* Statement you released as part of the 2022-2023 Commonwealth Budget, and I am looking forward to many conversations about how we measure what matters to Australians and how we jointly contribute to making a difference.

In 2020, I launched the ACT Wellbeing Framework to support decision-making and investment for improving wellbeing outcomes for our community here in the ACT.

The ACT Wellbeing Framework was developed through extensive consultation and engagement with Canberrans to better reflect what is important to them, and to better understand the things that contribute to their wellbeing.

It is unsurprising that there is significant overlap between the 12 wellbeing domains that we have developed here in the ACT and the focus of your *Measuring What Matters* Statement.

I have attached a copy of the ACT Wellbeing Framework for your information.

I am very conscious that our different levels of government make different contributions to the wellbeing of our shared communities. I understand that our ACT Wellbeing Team has met with their colleagues in the Commonwealth Treasury to discuss *Measuring What Matters* and have provided some insights from the ACT experience, and I look forward to continuing to work together in this important area to support the wellbeing of both Canberrans and of all Australians.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

1 February 2023



ACT Wellbeing Framework



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CHIEF MINISTER'S FOREWORD

By any of the standard economic measures, Canberra is doing very well. We consistently have one of the lowest unemployment rates and highest average income levels in Australia. Our educational attainment levels are strong. And our economy has grown well above the national average in recent years. Our population is also growing as more people are attracted to our liveable city.

These areas matter because a strong economy is fundamental to ensuring a decent quality of life for Canberrans. Having a secure job and housing, with the ability to meet your family's needs, and being able to plan for the future with confidence are some of the basics for a good life.

But economic conditions, important as they may be, are not the *only* factors that contribute to the quality of life of Canberrans. Canberra is more than an economy or, indeed, our Nation's capital – it's an inclusive, vibrant and caring community where we aim for everyone to share in the benefits of a good life both now and in the future.

More and more, governments around the world are recognising that economic growth alone does not account for a community's success or progress over time. To gain a real sense of our wellbeing, we must broaden our gaze to look at the range of factors that contribute to quality of life, how they can be sustained and improved over time for future generations, and ensure that all in the community are feeling the benefits of improved wellbeing. Having a set of wellbeing indicators will help us zero in on where we need to invest more of our time, energy and creativity to make a real difference for those Canberrans who currently aren't sharing in the benefits of our prosperity in the way they should.

The extent to which changes or disruptions in one or more of these factors can have profound impacts on others has been demonstrated recently with one of the worst environmental emergencies in our recorded history.

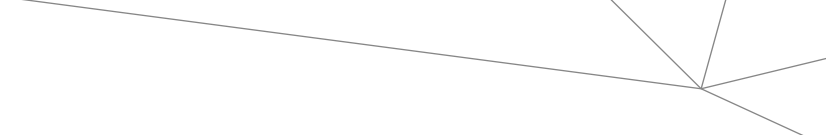
The bushfire season of 2019 and 2020 has burnt millions of hectares, devastating communities and natural ecosystems across the country. Over one third of the ACT land mass has been affected. The smoke from the fires meant Canberra experienced some of the world's worst air pollution this summer. Offices, businesses, universities, and sports grounds closed across the city and Canberrans were urged to remain indoors at a time when we would normally be connecting with each other outside. Canberra then experienced a major hail event causing widespread physical damage across the city, and now we prepare for the growing issues associated with COVID-19.

These events have had stark impacts on the wellbeing of our city. The health, economic and social impacts are deep as we realise that imbalances in key systems such as the natural environment can have severe consequences on our overall quality of life and test our resilience as individuals and as a community.

We must not fall into the trap of seeing wellbeing as being just about 'today'. We need to have a keen eye to longer-term balances across the major 'systems' within which we live and engage.

This will be a key factor in the Government's consideration of progress reports in shaping priorities for Government decision-making and Budget investment.





In developing a Wellbeing Framework for the ACT, the Government has sought to engage Canberrans to understand what matters to their quality of life so that our framework has a real Canberra feel. And I believe we have achieved that.

It is my hope that the types of conversations that have informed this Framework will be continued into the future, such that our shared aspirations for our great city over time will continue to be reflected in relevant indicators that demonstrate our progress.

Andrew Barr MLA
ACT Chief Minister
March 2020

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is wellbeing?

Definitions of wellbeing are typically broad and diverse, encompassing a wide range of areas that impact on an individual's quality of life. Generally, having the opportunity and ability to lead lives of personal and community value – with qualities such as good health, time to enjoy the things in life that matter, in an environment that promotes personal growth – are at the heart of wellbeing.

When talking about individual wellbeing, we often speak to a person's physical and mental health, the strength of connections they share with people around them, or their financial position. More expansive indicators of wellbeing can be a person's relationship to their surroundings, such as their safety, their capacity to enjoy and live in harmony with the natural and built environment, or their ability to be mobile in their community. These aspects of wellbeing are not independent of each other. They operate together and influence one another, creating complex relationships that are in turn shaped by an individual's lived experience.

Our vitality as a city is the result of the various lived experiences across the community. Ultimately, feeling healthy and happy will mean different things to different people. Capturing all these aspects of a person's lived experience can be inherently complex. Before attempting to measure the wellbeing of our community, we have spoken with and heard from thousands of Canberrans about what they feel is most important to their own, their family's, and their community's quality of life.

In designing this Framework, we heard from many Canberrans about what positive wellbeing means for them.

"Having a stress-free life with family and friends close by."

<i>"It is the simple things in life that are important."</i>	<i>"Feeling included in the community especially if you do not fit a cookie cutter shape."</i>
<i>"Knowing about services, supports and opportunities & being able to access them as equally as everyone else."</i>	<i>"Knowing that others can know where to get help."</i>
<i>"I feel safe as a diverse person in public spaces."</i>	<i>"Knowing my opportunities aren't limited by my disabilities."</i>

"The environment and looking after it."

Through our discussions with the community, we have identified many attributes that we all value and consider to be priorities when it comes to wellbeing. It is these attributes that have been reflected in the ACT Wellbeing Framework. These attributes may change over time as we grow and evolve as a community, and it is important that this Framework be able to reflect those changes. This will ensure that the work of government and the community fosters positive wellbeing outcomes for all Canberrans both now and into the future.

1.2 Why should the ACT have a Wellbeing Framework?

As First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon observed, what we choose to measure matters.* The way we measure our progress as a Territory drives the public conversation and helps to frame the Government's focus for decision making and investment.

It has been well documented that existing measures of economic progress do not capture all the issues that may be important to a community. Quality of life issues are often masked in such statistics, with life satisfaction not necessarily tracking measures of economic growth for all in the community.

By turning our attention to indicators of social progress and considering them alongside the economic issues we already measure, we will start to form a clearer picture of the broader effects that policy and non-policy factors have on our people, businesses, places and systems.

The ACT Wellbeing Framework will provide high-level indicator outcomes for Canberra. To be useful, a set of wellbeing indicators need to be broad enough to encompass the various different facets of wellbeing, but specific enough that we can track progress and make policy or investment decisions taking into account the insights gained. Wellbeing indicators also need to be clear and familiar to the ACT community that had significant input into their creation.

The indicators in this Framework will be informed by a series of measures that will use both people's subjective interpretations of quality of life, and data that charts objective progress. Subjective measures consider an individual's own preferences, needs, and experiences. They typically ask respondents specific questions – many of which are well verified by researchers and social and statistical organisations – and rely upon their personal responses about wellbeing outcomes. Objective measures are those that can be recorded by an external observer and are frequently used as part of existing statistical frameworks. Each have an important role in a wellbeing framework.

Some indicators will draw on measures that are established, with a long history of information and data collection behind them. Others will require further exploration to effectively allow measurement and reporting due to a current lack of information or data but have been chosen because they have been identified as important by our community.

Measuring those factors that drive the wellbeing of Canberrans will help us to evaluate policy and programs and guide future policy design and decision making and ensure these are being given the best chance of providing outcomes that benefit the overall wellbeing of all Canberrans on measures that matter to them.

Measuring wellbeing will help us understand how we can improve the lives of all Canberrans and support those who need it most. The Framework will help guide whole-of-government prioritisation and initiatives to lift the quality of life of all Canberrans – but with focus on those with lower wellbeing. In this way, we will share the benefits of growth in a more inclusive way.

The Framework will also inform the community and community groups as to progress and thereby assist the community to consider where and how they can best contribute to improving the wellbeing of Canberrans.

We know that the government has an important role to play in ensuring people's wellbeing. However, individuals, community organisations, our institutions and businesses, and all of Canberra also have a role to play to deliver the best wellbeing outcomes for our city.

* Nicola Sturgeon, *Why governments should prioritize well-being*, TEDSummit July 2019

2. THE PATH TO DEVELOPING THIS FRAMEWORK

The Framework has been developed through an extensive process of community consultation over an eight-month period in 2019-20. We heard from nearly 3000 Canberrans about what is most important to their quality of life – including from people who do not usually have the opportunity to engage on these sorts of issues. From Gungahlin to Lanyon, from food pantries to Floriade, to evening gatherings over pizza with young people and people of multicultural background, morning teas with seniors, and through the YourSay Community Panel, we have heard the stories and experiences of people from across the ACT.

In May 2019, a wellbeing forum was held by the Australian National University and University of Canberra to discuss the possibilities for a Wellbeing Framework for the ACT.

In July 2019, the formal engagement began with a series of community roundtables attended by over one hundred community organisations, representing the issues and interests of Canberra.

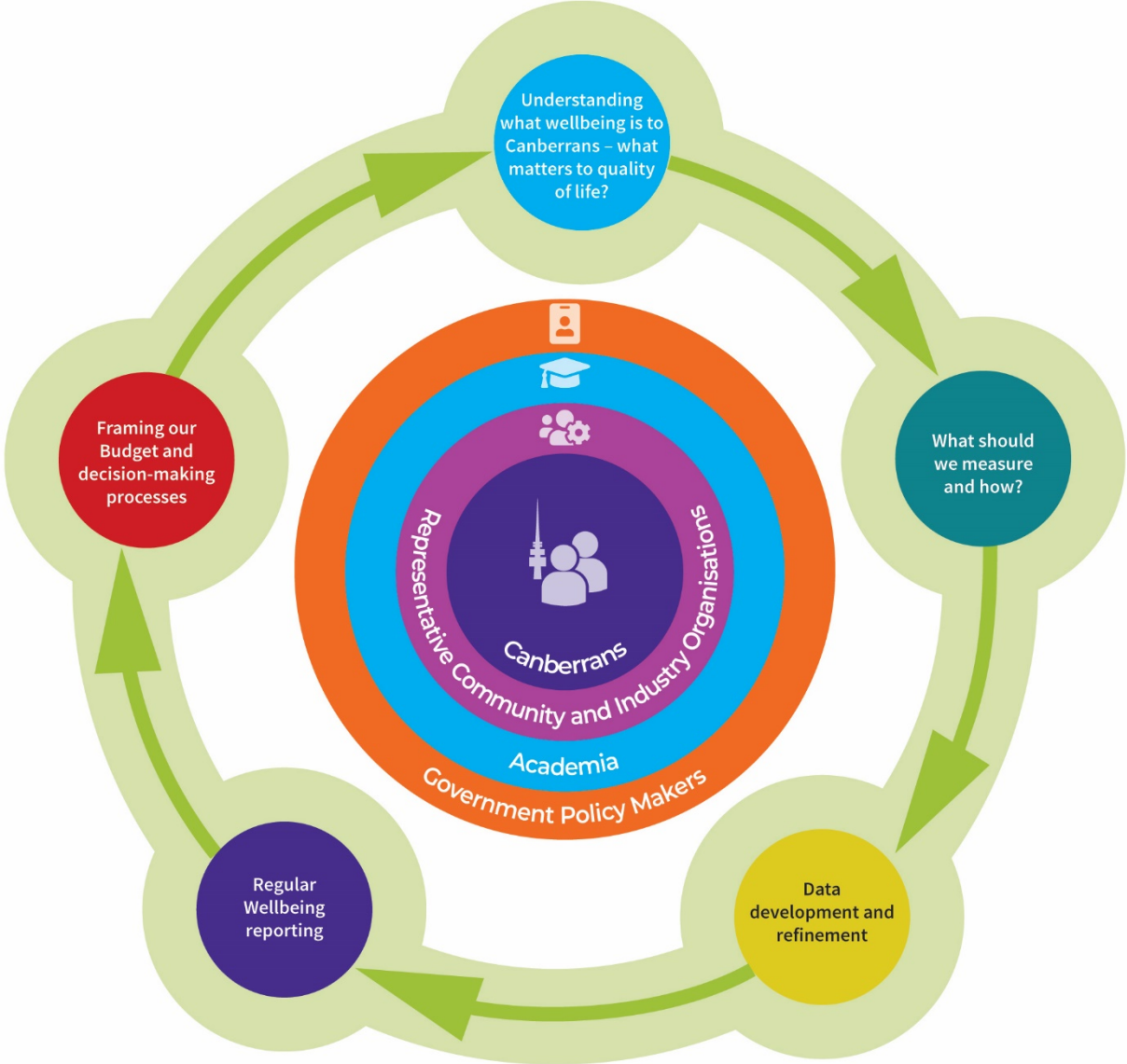
The Framework has also been informed by input gained from several peak advisory bodies of the ACT. These include the Joint Ministerial Advisory Council, the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Council, the Youth Advisory Council, the Multicultural Advisory Council, Minister's Creative Council, the Climate Change Council, the Mental Health Advisory Council, the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women, the ACT Disability Reference Group, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, and the United Ngunnawal Elders Council.

Public consultation also took place through the ACT Government's YourSay website and YourSay Community Panel from July through December 2019. This was supported by online surveys, as well as surveys taken at Floriade, Canberra Together, Communities@Work, and the YWCA.

Bringing these views together has been a process of collaboration between a small team in the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate and an intra-government working group comprising senior members from all other Directorates. The ACT Government is also working closely with the University of Canberra and Australian National University who have helped to guide the development of the ACT Wellbeing Framework, using their expertise and knowledge of current frameworks in other jurisdictions.

A Consultation Summary Report (available at www.act.gov.au/wellbeing) provides further details of the consultation journey for the Wellbeing Framework, including the many groups we engaged with, and how feedback from the community has shaped the Framework at every step.

Community engagement and the stages of development of the Wellbeing Framework.



3. DOMAINS AND INDICATORS – THE FRAMEWORK

The ACT Wellbeing Framework comprises twelve **domains** of wellbeing, reflecting key factors that impact on the quality of life of Canberrans. **Indicators** – the way we measure our progress – are grouped under each domain and will help us know where wellbeing is improving or diminishing in the ACT over time. While an indicator sits under one domain, many are also relevant to multiple domains.

Sitting outside the domains, but at the heart of the Framework, is a Personal Wellbeing Indicator which will provide a measure of the overall wellbeing of the ACT community over time. It draws from the internationally recognised Personal Wellbeing Index scale which contains seven items of satisfaction, each one corresponding to a particular aspect of an individual's quality of life: standard of living, health, what they are achieving in life, relationships, safety, community-connectedness, and future security. This overall indicator reflects the broadest question of all regarding wellbeing: 'how satisfied are you with your life as a whole?'*

Our indicators have been selected to provide a broad snapshot of outcomes for each domain and the results over time will provide the basis for wide-ranging discussions about the effectiveness of existing policy settings.

All domains and indicators are treated as equally important in this first version of the Framework and as a result have not been weighted or organised into a hierarchy within the Framework. They operate together to form a composite picture of wellbeing in our community. It is possible, and even likely, that indicators will move in different ways over time and, in some cases, positive movements in one indicator could result in negative movements in another.

Understanding these balances will be a key component of using wellbeing indicators to inform government decision making and investment, as well as ongoing conversations within the community.

3.1 The ACT Wellbeing Domains

Throughout our community engagement, a number of areas were consistently identified as contributing most to the overall quality of life of Canberrans. These have been captured as domains in the Framework. Domains encompass many of the environmental, social and economic factors that have influence on our lives and of those around us.

What became clear in community conversations was that many of the domain areas have close connection with each other, and outcomes in one area may depend on outcomes achieved in other areas.

It is not the intention of this document to identify and analyse every interdependency and linkage across domains and indicators. However, as indicator information and data become available, the outcomes for each domain should encourage even more discussion, within government and across the community, about important linkages and what that might mean for both policy development and delivery.

Indeed, one of the aspirations for the Framework is that it will encourage more collaborative discussion and consideration across the Public Service directorates as to the factors that might contribute to delivering effective policy and 'joined-up' outcome.

* For further information regarding the Personal Wellbeing Index scale consult the *Australian Centre on the Quality of Life* website.

Twelve Domains of Wellbeing for the ACT



DOMAIN NAME	DEFINITION	OUR ASPIRATION FOR WELLBEING IN THIS AREA
Access and connectivity	Getting around to places we value and accessing the services we need	Our planning, mobility and service systems allow us to move around our liveable city and access the types of places and services we need, when we need them. Those who require additional support to gain independence can access responsive, tailored services.
Economy	We share in our city's economy	A strong economy, business and innovation sector creates opportunities for all Canberrans to share in the wealth of our city.
Education and life-long learning	Gaining the skills and education needed at all stages of life	Canberrans have equitable access to education and learning opportunities, through all ages and stages of life, to develop and gain the skills needed to live life well.
Environment and climate	The environment sustains all life now and into the future	Canberra's natural environment sustains all life, is accessible, climate resilient, and clean.
Governance and institutions	Having a say, being heard, and working together for better outcomes	All Canberrans can have their say, connect with and be part of key government processes. Canberrans have a government and other institutions that respect human rights, are responsible, reliable, have integrity, are open, and are fair.
Health	Being healthy and supported with the right care	Canberrans have good physical and mental health at every stage of life and can access the services they need to lead healthier lives and manage illness. Individuals take steps to proactively maintain good health with the support of health-promoting environments.
Housing and home	Having a place to call home	Canberrans have access to secure, suitable and affordable housing throughout their lives.
Identity and belonging	Being able to express identity, feel a sense of belonging, and participate fully in society	All Canberrans can participate on equal terms, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background or disability. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a strong voice, are decision makers on issues that impact them, and lead in the achievement of positive life outcomes. We are proud to be Canberrans.
Living standards	Having the financial resources to live life well	Canberrans can be economically secure and have the means to help manage their lives.
Safety	Feeling safe and being safe	Canberrans are and feel safe and secure around their families, homes, community and on-line.
Social connection	Being connected with family, friends and community	Canberrans are connected and supported within our community and come together in areas such as sport, culture, spirituality, religion and the arts.
Time	Having time to live life well	Canberrans have the time to do things we want to as well as the things we are required to do.

3.2 Indicators: measuring wellbeing

Indicators are the information that show the condition of a domain. They are statistical aids that, when viewed together, demonstrate the state of wellbeing across the twelve domains. Indicators included in the ACT Wellbeing Framework have been developed from a number of sources:

- consultation with the Canberra public through the processes outlined in the Consultation Summary Report;
- deliberations by the ACT Public Service in relation to relevant policy and service delivery outcomes, and their measurement;
- discussions with data and indicator experts including the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Institute of Health and Welfare, and leading academics from the University of Canberra and Australian National University; and
- consideration of areas covered by other ACT Government frameworks.

The indicators have been selected based on their ability to provide valuable insights about what matters to Canberrans. They primarily focus on 'outcomes' rather than system outputs or inputs and operate at a whole-of-community level. The degree of influence the ACT Government has over different indicators varies, with some being under closer control than others. But indicators have been included because they matter to people in Canberra.

It is expected that a significant amount of indicator information will be obtained through surveys of the Canberra population. This represents the best way of gaining insight into how the community considers their current and future wellbeing.

Administrative data can only tell us so much; but will be all the more powerful when combined with survey information from the community. The Government will be considering the most appropriate forum for seeking such information from the Canberra population, noting that a range of community surveys are already undertaken.

3.2.1 Release of Indicator Data

Data development in relation to the indicators is continuing and an initial 'dashboard' of indicator data will be released later in 2020. Further information about specific data sources – including technical considerations that have shaped our choice of data sources – will also be released at that time.

Comprehensive data reporting is expected every two years, with updates in relation to government and community action to support wellbeing being reported periodically in the intervening years.

Data availability will also be a key consideration. Different information sets will draw from different sources that don't necessarily report information with the same regularity. In the instances where survey results are used, the ACT Government will need to consider how frequent and of what size these surveys should be. These considerations, along with the issues of data usability, reliability, relevance and sensitivity will continue to be thoroughly considered in the context of finalising a first dashboard of indicator data in the second half of 2020.

3.2.2 Personal wellbeing

“My wellbeing is greatest when I know what I have to do, where I’m going and I’m comfortable with where I’m at.”

- Youth consultation session.

Wellbeing is fundamentally an expression of how people and the community feel about their quality of life. The Personal Wellbeing Index picks up seven key factors of life satisfaction, and summarises them into a globally recognised, and therefore comparable, measure of how well life is going overall for individuals in the ACT.

It incorporates elements from within the domains to provide a well-established and validated snapshot of wellbeing. The indicators associated with each domain then provide a more detailed understanding of wellbeing in multiple areas.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Personal Wellbeing	Personal wellbeing is a measure of an individual’s satisfaction with their standard of living, health, what they are achieving in life, relationships, safety, community-connectedness, and future security. This indicator will measure the overall wellbeing of people in the ACT using the Personal Wellbeing Index.	Self-rated survey



3.2.3 Access and connectivity



“Accessible, friendly and affordable services when needed.”

- Consultation feedback.

One of the things we value about our city is our ability to get around easily and access the spaces, places, buildings, services, jobs and activities that help us day to day.

As we have engaged with the Canberra community, we have heard the importance of timely and effective access to services, the importance of planning and being able to get around the city easily. This is particularly so in relation to those Canberrans who have higher need for inter-related government services or regular and more complex commuting needs, such as people living with a disability or those whose daily commute involves multiple legs or modes of transport.

Access is not just about how we move around physically – connecting online is becoming increasingly important to our wellbeing. Accessing the benefits of the digital world requires timely and reliable access to digital services, regardless of where you work or live.

The *Access and connectivity* domain will include measures about ease of access to services, transport and our ability to get where we need to go, how we rate the liveability of city and of our neighbourhoods, as well as the level of digital access and connectivity in the ACT.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Access to services	When someone needs a service, it should be easy to find and use so that they can focus on the issue at hand. This indicator will measure how easy we find it to access government services.	Self-rated survey
Liveable city	Canberra is often ranked as a highly liveable city when compared internationally, but what do we think about the liveability of our local area? This indicator will explore this question.	Self-rated survey
Transport	Being able to move easily within the city and our neighbourhoods helps connect us with people, work, places and services to live good lives. This indicator will measure how we travel, as well our satisfaction with access to types of transport, and access to places in our local area.	Self-rated survey and national statistical data
Digital access	Access to digital telecommunications is vital to an individual’s social and economic participation. This indicator will measure digital inclusion through three aspects: digital literacy, access and affordability.	Other

3.2.4 Economy

“The importance of employment so that I can provide for my son and I, and my son’s education.”

- YourSay Survey feedback.



The introduction of wellbeing indicators for the ACT is designed to complement, not replace, the conventional measures we already use to define progress. Our economic performance remains a key driver of overall activity in our city and impacts strongly on our ability to meet the basics of life. Broader economic conditions are therefore a central determinant of our positive wellbeing.

The *Economy* domain highlights the importance of factors such as employment, income equality, business performance and economic diversity in measuring wellbeing. Whereas the issues of income and wealth are important components of individual wellbeing and are captured in the *Living standards* domain, the indicators in this domain present a macro picture of the ACT economy. Naturally, these two domains share a close relationship and understanding the progress of both will give us valuable insight into the relationships between individual and collective wellbeing in the Territory.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Employment	Having a job and having enough work are very important to our financial and personal wellbeing. This indicator will measure employment, unemployment, underemployment and labour force participation in the Territory.	National statistical data
Economic performance	The strength of the ACT economy and our community’s wellbeing are intertwined, with people’s wellbeing likely to improve as the broader economic conditions strengthen. This indicator will track Gross State Product and labour productivity in the ACT.	National statistical data
Business conditions and economic diversity	The strength of our business sector supports the wellbeing of our community and economy. This indicator will measure the vibrancy and diversity of the ACT economy.	National statistical data
Income inequality	Tracking our income inequality ensures we understand who is benefiting from our economic prosperity and who is missing out. This indicator will measure income dispersion in the ACT comparing different income groups.	National statistical data

3.2.5 Education and life-long learning

“Canberrans should have equitable access to education to gain the skills and resilience to thrive now and into the future”

- Roundtable participant.



Participants in consultations consistently identified education as a key dimension influencing a person’s wellbeing and their growth from a young age into and through adulthood. Education is fundamental to enabling people to make choices in life and giving them the opportunity to participate in society.

The course of an individual’s educational prosperity is often determined at an early age. Given this, an indicator in the *Education and life-long learning* domain focuses on tracking the quality of access to early childhood education in the years before pre-school.

Conversations regarding school education focussed on the issues of equity and access, and students feeling safe and accepted in schools. Whilst school educational attainment is a driver of opportunity in later years, the ACT recognises that the wellbeing of children in their school years is vital to their life outcomes. Acknowledging and celebrating the diversity of ACT school students, their different needs and ambitions, and identifying equity as the key component in meeting the needs of each individual student is vital.

In addition to school education, learning over the life course – including through vocational education and training or higher education training – is important to ensuring individuals feel prepared for new opportunities. It also ensures their capacity and ability to gain new skills in response to changes in life circumstances or economic conditions.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Early childhood education	Pre-school education can have positive impacts on life outcomes. This indicator will measure 3 and 4-year old pre-school enrolments. In future, it will also measure early childhood educational outcomes for 3-year-olds in the first phase of universal access to quality early childhood education.	ACT administrative and national statistical data
Learning growth	How quickly a student’s learning is progressing through their school years is an important measure for evaluating educational outcomes. This indicator will measure learning gain over time for our primary and high school students in the ACT.	ACT administrative and national statistical data
Equity of educational outcomes	Educational outcomes can differ between the more advantaged and less advantaged students. This indicator will measure the difference in educational outcomes between these groups of students over time.	ACT administrative and national statistical data

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Student belonging	Students spend much of their lives at school, and this has a significant impact on their individual wellbeing. This indicator will include factors such as student self-assessed feelings around sense of belonging, safety and emotional engagement with their schools (for public school students).	ACT administrative data
Learning for life	Post-school education improves employment opportunities, which in turn contributes to overall wellbeing and life satisfaction. This indicator will measure post-school opportunities and outcomes for Canberrans including through tertiary studies and employment.	National statistical data and self-rated survey



3.2.6 Environment and climate

“Feeling that I belong to a community that is actively engaged in mitigating and adapting to climate change is the key to my wellbeing”

- Youth consultation session.



Canberra is a city built within the beautiful natural setting of the Brindabellas. Our lakes, hills and paths are part of our tree-lined city, and we value our walkable nature reserves through and around the city. Almost 50 per cent of our population lives within 500 metres, and 25 per cent within 100 metres, of a park or reserve. People in Canberra value our strong connection to nature and we heard many times from the community that our health and wellbeing are enhanced by our access to the natural environment.

The quality and sustainability of our air, water, land, and flora and fauna are critical to sustaining our lives. The indicators in this domain will cover access to green spaces including parks, tracks and trails; tree canopy cover; and the quality of our air, water, and biodiversity. Our indicators will also focus on ecosystem condition, catchment health, status of threatened species and communities, and level of threat reduction to the natural environment.

We are seeing how climate change will impact our local region. As we try to adapt to hotter temperatures, more extreme weather events, higher bushfire risks with more intense fires, and longer, harsher seasons at all extremes, our wellbeing and resilience will be challenged. To understand how our people and our environment are doing over time, we will measure greenhouse gas emissions, community resilience, community preparedness for climate change, and residual risks from extreme weather events to both life and property.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Healthy and resilient natural environment	Ensuring the health of our natural environment remains one of the most important actions in preserving the wellbeing of both current and future generations. This indicator will measure the health of the natural environment, including water, threatened species, air, and our ecosystems.	ACT administrative data
Connection to nature	There is a strong link between our access to green spaces and improvements to both physical and mental wellbeing. This indicator will measure how much green space we have in the ACT in our parks, nature reserves and other places, whether we can access these spaces, and how often we use them.	ACT administrative data and self-rated survey
Climate resilient environment and community	Climate mitigation and adaptation will become increasingly important to track as they contribute to both personal wellbeing, the wellbeing of the economy, and society as a whole. This indicator will measure climate mitigation and adaptation by tracking greenhouse gas emissions, tree canopy coverage, waste, and community preparedness for climate change impacts and extreme weather events.	ACT administrative data and self-rated survey

3.2.7 Governance and institutions

“Knowing that our government is genuinely planning for a regenerative, resilient, inclusive, just and equitable future for all Canberrans”.

- YourSay survey feedback.



The *Governance and institutions* domain will measure the degree of trust Canberrans have in civic and institutional processes, whether they feel that they can make contributions to those processes, and that those contributions are meaningful.

Other wellbeing frameworks around the world often use voter turnout as a key measure of civic participation or engagement, however this becomes less applicable in the ACT context. What remains relevant in a community that features compulsory voting is whether that system is enabling citizens to feel that their voice and perspective are being heard and having an effect.

A community has better wellbeing when its residents have confidence in its system of government to act in an ethical, timely and appropriate manner that best serves the interests of the population. This includes empowerment to ‘have a say’ in the political process and the knowledge that such contributions have been appropriately considered. The community also needs to have confidence in the other key institutions that play a role in influencing wellbeing. Having confidence in and access to the justice system and restorative practices, and assurances that basic human rights are protected within those systems are important to our community.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Trust in government	Trusting that the government will do the right thing, listen, lead, respond effectively and represent the community has an impact on our wellbeing. This indicator will feature measures from the Edelman Trust Barometer – a standard international trust measure.	Self-rated survey
Trust in other institutions	Trusting that institutions other than government will do the right thing, listen, lead, respond effectively and represent the community has an impact on our wellbeing. This indicator will be measured using the Edelman Trust Barometer.	Self-rated survey
Feeling that voice and perspective matter	We need to feel like we can have our say – and be listened to. This indicator will measure the agency people feel they have in our city, including whether they can get involved in decision-making processes, and if they’re confident their voices will have an impact.	Self-rated survey
Access to justice and restorative practice	A fair justice system is accessible and deals with matters in a reasonable, expeditious matter. Canberra is progressing to become a restorative city to benefit the community’s wellbeing. This indicator will measure the finalisation of criminal and civil matters in the ACT courts and tribunal. Measures of restorative practices in the ACT are still under development.	ACT administrative data
Human rights	We are a jurisdiction committed to upholding the human rights and welfare of all people living in the ACT. This indicator will measure our community’s experience of human rights protection and the confidence of the community that these rights are being effectively upheld.	Self-rated survey

3.2.8 Health



“Physical and mental health is a very big priority. I believe it comes from a safe environment with reliable accommodation and people to engage with.”

- YourSay feedback.

We know that good health is fundamental to wellbeing and has a strong relationship to quality of life outcomes. We also recognise that improving our health outcomes involves a focus on both our physical and mental wellbeing. The state of our health impacts our participation in a wide range of activities that make our lives meaningful including our education, employment, relationships and broader social connections, and our general outlook on life.

Throughout our consultation, Canberrans identified that living a healthy lifestyle was vital, but so too was having good access to health services where and when people need them. People identified the balance between the role of the individual and the role of government and institutions in promoting, maintaining and supporting good physical and mental health. Canberrans hold the expectation that all people should be able to receive timely and accessible healthcare when needed.

Our *Health* indicators will measure levels of both overall health and mental health, conscious of the increased focus that mental health now has in the community generally – including for younger people. They will also measure life expectancy, which is a useful indicator of overall changes in health status. As noted above, our sense of wellbeing is also informed by our perception of service access and the outcome of that experience. We will seek to measure the extent to which Canberrans’ lifestyles are healthy as reflected in outcomes such as body weight and quality of sleep, as well as examining contributing factors such as healthy food consumption and appropriate physical activity.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Overall health	Self-assessed health status is a commonly used measure of overall health. It reflects a person's perception of their own health at a given point in time, providing a broad picture of health outcomes across the general population. This indicator will measure the proportion of adults who self-rate their overall health as very good or excellent.	Self-rated survey
Best start to life	Ensuring children get the best start in life is a key determinant to ensuring their wellbeing into the future. This indicator will focus on the health of children in their first three years.	National statistical data
Life expectancy	Life expectancy at birth is one of the most commonly used measures of overall health of a population. Examining causes, patterns and trends in death can also help explain differences and changes in the health of a population, contribute to the evaluation of health strategies and interventions, and guide planning and policy making.	National statistical data

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Mental health	A person's perception of the level of their mental health has direct connection with how they perceive their wellbeing. This indicator will measure the proportion of persons who rate their mental health as either very good or excellent. This indicator will also report on levels of psychological distress in the community.	Self-rated survey
Access to health services	Having access to health services where and when people need them has an important bearing on their sense of wellbeing. This indicator will measure how difficult or easy it is for Canberrans to access a range of health services, from GPs through to public and private health services.	Self-rated survey
Healthy lifestyle	Our lifestyles have a big impact on our wellbeing and preventive health has a big role to play in improving health outcomes. This indicator will measure healthy weight for adults and children, as well as quality of sleep.	Self-rated survey



3.2.9 Housing and home

“Housing should allow people to live a dignified and independent life.”

- Roundtable participant.



Having a secure, suitable and affordable place to call home remains one of the essentials for a good life. At a fundamental level, housing offers physical shelter. But there is also a deeper relationship between an individual or family’s housing conditions and their wellbeing outcomes.

Throughout our consultations, Canberrans generally identified the home as a place where people felt safe and where relationships were able to grow and be nurtured. A sense of home can offer feelings of constancy in people’s material and social environments, and by extension furthers our degree of control over these aspects of our lives.

We heard however, that securing and maintaining housing can also be accompanied by significant financial stress. The costs associated with housing are among the largest ongoing expenses that individuals and families will incur over their lifetime. For the ACT, high wages, low unemployment and a large number of dual income families in the Territory means the housing market is within reach of most, but is beyond many families on lower or single incomes.

Measures in the *Housing and home* domain will target varied stages of housing experiences in our city. Indicators will track Canberra’s levels of homelessness, rental stress, affordability of home purchase, and housing suitability.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Homelessness	Not having adequate, stable housing makes it difficult to participate in society, and is associated with negative personal and social outcomes across a broad range of wellbeing domains. This indicator will measure the number of people sleeping rough in Canberra: that is in improvised dwellings, tents, cars, or sleeping out.	National statistical data
Rental stress	Having access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing is an important factor that contributes to social and economic participation. Rental affordability is a complex issue determined by the interaction of both rental supply and demand and is affected by levels of employment and income. This indicator will measure rental stress in Canberra by tracking the percentage of low-income households that spend more than 30 per cent of gross income on rental costs.	National statistical data

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Housing affordability and availability	Home ownership provides substantial economic and social benefits. In addition to wealth creation and financial security, home ownership is the basis for a number of positive social, family and community outcomes. To provide insight into the degree to which home ownership is accessible to the community, this indicator will measure the availability of affordable homes for purchase and the proportion of income required to meet the cost of new home purchases.	National statistical data
Housing suitability	Having a house or place that is suitable to your needs is a key determinant of wellbeing. This indicator will measure the proportion of households that are overcrowded in the ACT and will include a housing suitability index which measures household accessibility and quality.	Self-rated survey and national statistical data



3.2.10 Identity and belonging

“I don’t need to be tolerated or celebrated, I need to be included and accepted.”

- Roundtable participant.



A sense of belonging is the feeling of being connected to and valued by those around us. It can have close links to a person’s experience of social connection. However, one is not necessarily required for the other as a person can have a limited number of social contacts and still feel that they belong to their community. On the other hand, people can have frequent social contact but still feel isolated or excluded. This sense of identity and belonging is particularly important for some groups in the community who may experience marginalisation or exclusion due to bias or pre-conceptions of their identity.

Throughout our consultations, we heard from Canberrans that issues concerning identity and belonging relate to both the individual and the broader community. Indicators should focus on both how Canberrans feel within their city and how the city as a whole responds to this need. Indicators in this domain attempt to measure Canberrans’ subjective sense of belonging and inclusion, as well as highlight our Territory’s ability to be a place of respect and acceptance towards others.

“Respect the dignity of difference.”
- Consultation participant

These indicators use measures that ask how welcome people feel in their area and how much they feel a part of their community. They also ask Canberrans about their support for multiculturalism, and the extent to which Canberra is a city that embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Going forward, the Wellbeing Framework will also seek to explore the extent to which arts and cultural experiences have a deeper and broader impact on our sense of wellbeing and overall identity as a Territory.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Sense of belonging and inclusion	This indicator will measure people’s self-rated sense of belonging in their community, how inclusive they find their local area, and whether different people experience discrimination in Canberra.	Self-rated survey
Support for multiculturalism	Canberra is a welcoming and vibrant city, shaped by the cultural diversity of those who live here. This indicator will measure Canberrans’ support for multiculturalism, including how welcome people of different cultural backgrounds feel in Canberra.	Self-rated survey
Arts and culture	Arts and culture have the ability to connect people with ideas, emotions and stories. This indicator will measure the importance of the arts, culture and heritage to our identity as a city and our overall happiness and wellbeing.	Self-rated survey

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Connection to Canberra	Our sense of connection to our city can play an important role in establishing feelings of belonging. This indicator will measure whether Canberrans would recommend our city to others as a good place to live, as well as how proud we are to live in the ACT region.	Self-rated survey
Valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and recognising our Traditional Custodians	Valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures and recognising our Traditional Custodians are significant indicators of the social fabric of Canberra. This indicator will measure the level of understanding the ACT population has in acknowledging and respecting the Traditional Custodians of this land, and in celebrating and valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as the cornerstone of Australia's identity.	Self-rated survey



3.2.11 Living standards

“I want to live in a society which helps the less well-off and assists people and families with a hand-up when they are in need.”

- YourSay feedback.



A person’s standard of living has a strong correlation with the level of wellbeing they enjoy. In this Framework, living standards are considered primarily from a financial perspective, with the other domains bringing together the broader socio-economic picture of wellbeing.

Our *Living standards* domain will consider levels of income in the ACT as well as which people in the ACT are able to live comfortably with their household’s income. This will provide a richer understanding of incomes beyond the high overall income levels that we enjoy. Measuring levels of net worth and cost of living will help to inform a broader understanding of overall financial capacity.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Income levels	Income is a key measure of wellbeing as it allows for the fulfilment of basic needs as well as wants. It also provides for a greater degree of economic freedom. This indicator will measure the average weekly household income of different groups in the ACT, enabling an understanding of changes in living standards over time.	National statistical data
Net worth	The value of net worth shows our financial capacity at a point in time, with higher net worth likely to offer us better resilience against financial uncertainties. This indicator will measure how much a household owns after subtracting how much it owes.	National statistical data
Cost of living	High cost of living adds pressure to people’s living standards, which may in turn impact on their wellbeing. This indicator will measure cost of living in the ACT via the Consumer Price Index, reporting on changes in the price level of a range of consumer goods and services.	National statistical data
Financial position	How well we perceive our financial position can have as important an impact on our wellbeing as the sum of our assets. This indicator will report on a self-rated measure of prosperity, or how we view our financial position.	Self-rated survey

3.2.12 Safety

“A safe environment includes equality, equity and physical safety.”

- YourSay feedback.



A fundamental human right is the ability to be and feel safe. The extent to which we feel safe in our homes and communities has implications for the level of control we have over our lives and our environment. Safety also has profound effects in other domain areas such as health and social connection. Domestic and family violence is a particular area of focus in this Framework given the impacts it can have on families and communities.

Wellbeing, both short and long-term, can also be significantly affected by the timely response of the relevant authorities when a safety incident does occur. We need to better understand the capacity of the community to prepare for the increasing risks of major adverse events, adapt in ways that lessens the impact of these events, and cope with the outcomes of unfavourable weather.

These issues are reflected in the *Safety* domain, through indicators such as people’s perceived sense of safety at home and in public; victims of crime rates; domestic violence rates; road safety; workplace safety; responsiveness of emergency services; and the community’s resilience to emergencies.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Feeling safe	Perceived safety can be as important to wellbeing as the actual rate of crime in our city. This indicator will measure people’s self-rated sense of safety walking in their neighbourhoods.	Self-rated survey
Victims of crime	Being a victim of crime can have a significant impact on individual and community wellbeing. This indicator will measure crime rates in the ACT.	National statistical data
Domestic and family violence	Domestic and family violence is a pervasive social problem, impacting individuals, families and the entire community. The measures provide an indication of the prevalence of domestic and family violence in the ACT, as well as community knowledge and understanding of violence against women.	National statistical data and other
Road safety	The impact of road trauma, both in terms of social and economic impacts, is significant. This indicator will measure road deaths and crashes in the ACT.	ACT administrative data
Workplace safety	Feeling safe at work is vital to our wellbeing. This indicator will measure the Territory’s rate of lost time injuries.	National statistical data
Emergency services	Confidence in our emergency services is vital to our safety and security. This indicator will measure community satisfaction with policing, and response times of emergency services.	Self-rated survey and ACT administrative data
Community resilience to emergencies	How prepared are we for future floods, fires, storms, drought, or other emergencies? This indicator will measure our community’s perception of their readiness and resilience to emergency events over time.	Self-rated survey and ACT administrative data

3.2.13 Social connection

“My individual wellbeing is at its greatest when I’m with my family and friends.”

- Roundtable participant.



Over the course of our consultations, Canberrans identified that connecting with people around them remained one of the key determinants affecting their wellbeing. Being close with others not only reduces feelings of loneliness, it encourages a sense of resilience especially when dealing with events that disrupt our lives. Routinely connecting with others and having a network of people to rely on has positive effects on our sense of safety as well as enabling feelings of identity and belonging.

Canberrans said that connecting with people closest to them such as family and friends was paramount, but people also identified the value of belonging to local community clubs, teams, community groups or churches. Having the choice to engage with others on a personal or social level remains important.

Along with having others to connect with, people also identified the importance of living in a city that actively enables those connections through suitable activities and spaces. The *Social connection* domain includes measures that target both of these concepts: self-rated sense of social connection, levels of loneliness, rates of volunteering, and participation rates in community events and activities, including arts, culture and sport.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Sense of social connection	Social interactions with friends, family and community groups help Canberrans to feel valued and connected to the broader community. This indicator will measure Canberrans’ self-rated sense of social connection to their family, friends and the community.	Self-rated survey
Levels of loneliness	Feeling lonely, distant from others or like an outsider has a proven connection to low wellbeing and poor resilience. This indicator will measure how frequently Canberrans’ experience loneliness.	Self-rated survey
Levels of volunteering	Volunteering plays an important role in the ACT community and contributes to building healthier and more resilient individuals, communities and natural environments. This indicator will measure levels of volunteering in the ACT and the types of volunteering opportunities people are undertaking in our community.	Self-rated survey and national statistical data
Participation in community events and activities	This indicator will measure self-rated frequency of engagement by Canberrans in events, meetings or activities including: sports, arts and culture, clubs, churches or spiritual places, and other social activities in the community or at work.	Self-rated survey

3.2.14 Time

“People have time for themselves and can make a choice about how they spend their time”

- Roundtable participant.



How Canberrans use and have time available to them emerged as a prominent issue in our community consultations. How a person is able, or is required, to spend their time is closely linked with issues such as self-determination and a sense of control over life, with people who experience a balanced sense of time use often having greater wellbeing outcomes.

Just as income is considered a key resource with links to an individual’s prosperity, time can also be viewed as a factor that offers key insights into a person’s wellbeing. People need time to access services, build and develop relationships, work, socialise, care and heal.* This links time to a number of other wellbeing outcomes; for example, many families balance work and time at home, and this balance can sometimes come at the expense of more income.

We have also heard from people for whom managing time is less of a priority, with greater focus on ensuring the basics of life rather than juggling competing options and opportunities.

Indicators in the *Time* domain measure people’s quality of time, sense of work-life balance, their time spent travelling, and time spent engaged in unpaid caring. Studies into the relationship between time and wellbeing are relatively recent and it continues to emerge as a new feature of wellbeing frameworks internationally. Similarly, the ACT has not widely captured information on how Canberrans use their time and the Wellbeing Framework offers us a useful opportunity to do so.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION	DATA TYPE
Quality of time	The type of time available to individuals is an important factor impacting their sense of control in life. This indicator will measure the amount of time Canberrans spend doing activities that benefit their wellbeing.	Self-rated survey
Work-life balance	Achieving an appropriate work-life balance is vital to many in our community. This indicator will measure whether we think we spend too much, too little, or enough time at work.	Self-rated survey
Time spent travelling within Canberra	For many, commuting is a daily part of life and its wellbeing impacts will affect a large proportion of the population. This indicator will measure the amount of time people in the ACT spend travelling to work or study and their levels of satisfaction with this.	Self-rated survey
Unpaid work including caring	Measuring unpaid work helps to value everyone’s contributions to their community and the economy. This indicator will measure the proportion of people who undertake unpaid work in the ACT, the type of work they’re doing and whether they’re happy with their time spent undertaking these responsibilities.	Self-rated survey

* Lyndall Strazdins and Bernadette Loughrey, Australian National University, *Too busy: why time is a health and environmental problem*

4. WELLBEING OF SPECIFIC GROUPS

The wellbeing indicators that have been developed provide a picture of progress across each domain at a whole-of-population level. However, we know that community-wide outcomes within any domain may not reflect the lived experiences of individuals or certain groups of people within the ACT. An individual's overall wellbeing is connected to the communities they identify with, and the interaction and weight given to certain wellbeing domains by those communities, as a result of their lived experience. To gain a realistic picture of the wellbeing of all Canberrans, we need to look beyond the averages to understand the diversity of wellbeing within the community.

To achieve this, we will, over time and where possible, breakdown the aggregate indicator information and data by various specific groups to examine the variability of wellbeing outcomes across the community. This will then drive focus on areas where the wellbeing outcomes for some Canberrans may not be as strong as the broader population and invite consideration of potential whole-of-government approaches to improve opportunities for those most in need.

In the course of the Government's consultation with the Canberra community, we have heard many accounts of the life circumstances of Canberrans, including from people who don't usually get the chance to have their say or be heard. We have heard in these conversations about some of the challenges people face in their day to day lives and how these affect their personal wellbeing.

"All groups have their own individual perspectives and every effort should be made for them to be understood in the wellbeing indicators project."

- Roundtable participant

Intersectionality, for example, can have a significant impact on wellbeing. Many individuals identify as belonging to multiple groups, such as LGBTIQ+, culturally and linguistically diverse, or people living with disabilities. This may mean more resources, time, understanding and support is needed to help individuals meet their daily needs, access services, or feel safe in the community.

This suggests that our analysis by population grouping will not necessarily pick up all the life experiences of all individual Canberrans but will at least commence to identify relevant issues for those specific groups identified. This is an important start to better understanding the diversity of wellbeing within our community.

4.1 Wellbeing and the lived experience

Measuring the wellbeing outcomes of specific population groups will help government and members of the Canberra community to better understand how the wellbeing of some groups in the community may not accord with what we see at a whole-of-population level.

Initially, we intend to commence reporting on wellbeing for children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, LGBTIQ+ people, people with a disability, older Canberrans, carers; and by gender. In the future, we may also report on wellbeing for different household types, for the length of time people have lived in the ACT, and for veterans. We will consider the wellbeing of specific population groups through each of the domains, where the information and data allow. This approach will show the wellbeing domains as

experienced by the specific population cohort to demonstrate where wellbeing for these groups can be improved relative to the population as a whole.

It may also, for certain groups, be necessary to support relevant indicator information and data with other information specific to that population group. These methodologies and data sets will be developed over time, with a view to a progress report being released in the second half of 2020.

POPULATION GROUP	WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT WELLBEING...
Older Canberrans	<i>“As an older resident I want to continue to live in my own house and get the services I need to do this.”</i>
Children and young people	<i>“My wellbeing is at its greatest when I’m busy but every aspect of my life is in balance. When I have consistency in my routine and when I feel like I am growing personally and professionally.”</i>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	<i>“My wellbeing is at its greatest when I’m engaging with my culture and language.”</i>
Culturally and linguistically diverse people	<i>“Canberra should be promoted as a multicultural community. We need to be one as a community against racism.”</i>
Gender	<i>“People’s contribution to the community is valued equally whether paid or unpaid and regardless of gender.”</i>
Sexual orientation	<i>“Success means we do well at LGBTIQ-friendly ... everything.”</i>
People with a disability	<i>“Pathways and facilities for persons with learning challenges to gain employment and be a part of the community. “</i>

Carers

“We need to recognise unpaid carers in terms of contribution to maintaining care of others, relieving stress on health care and social welfare system, and building the community.”

4.2 Wellbeing in different parts of the ACT

We are also considering at what level of geography the indicators can be reported. This could include whole of city, district, or clusters of suburbs. Disaggregation of some data sets to lower levels may be difficult or inappropriate where sample sizes for the ACT as a whole are statistically small – meaning that data at those lower levels can be unreliable. And just as importantly, small data sizes at a disaggregated level run the risk of identifying particular cohorts of the population – which we will avoid doing to protect data privacy.



5. WELLBEING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 Children and Young People

“We need to use resources in the most effective way for future generations”

- Youth consultation session

When considering the importance of wellbeing over time, this can apply in no bigger and more important way than to our children and young people. Incorporating the needs, aspirations, and concerns that help nurture their development is vital so that they can be best placed to contribute to community now and in the years to come, including for the Canberrans that will follow them.

In the course of developing our Wellbeing Framework and in other recent Government consultations, we have heard many stories, concerns and aspirations of children and young people in relation to their own wellbeing as well as that of the community more broadly. Issues raised have included:

- youth homelessness and housing support;
- civic participation amongst young people and their ability to be heard by government and have a genuine and substantive impact on policy decisions;
- the importance of personal agency;
- youth mental health including the availability of services in schools and universities; and
- the future of the environment and our community’s response to climate change.

Our children and young people are our best expression of the need for wellbeing to be considered over time and in a sustainable way – not just from their personal point of view but to ensure that the environmental, social and economic systems that support the community are themselves sustained.

Working with the community we will continue to develop our reporting framework for children and young people in the months ahead, including being informed by how other jurisdictions within Australia and overseas are considering this issue.

5.2 Sustainability

An important attribute of any credible Wellbeing Framework is that it nurtures progress across its domains over time. It would be counterproductive for a wellbeing framework to help shape policy actions that enhanced wellbeing today if, in doing so, the capacities within domains to sustain wellbeing are increasingly eroded or depleted over future periods, leading to poorer wellbeing outcomes for future generations. We need to ensure that progress can be nurtured over time, in concert with key systems such as our environment. Considering the issues of sustainability and longevity will help ensure our Indicators are forward-focussed and relevant beyond today.

Across the twelve domains, indicators have been selected based on their potential to highlight vulnerabilities over time. One area of particular importance when considering the issue of sustainability is the *Environment and climate* domain. Indicators that measure environmental and community resilience will help us to more fully understand the effects of climate change on the environment itself, our people, infrastructure and services and reveal our community’s ability to adapt to changes in our natural environment.

There are a number of international examples where sustainability is being explored as a dimension of Wellbeing Frameworks. The OECD's Better Life Index and the New Zealand Living Standards Framework embed the concept of natural, social, physical and human capital stocks in their approaches. There is also increasing international interest in utilising the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an adjunct to wellbeing frameworks to provide a test of sustainability.

The ACT will continue to review the merit of formally adopting the SDGs where appropriate. One practical option is to benchmark our indicators against relevant indicators in the SDG framework to provide an assessment of their sustainability. It is important to note that many of the 244 SDG indicators do not directly relate to an economy such as the ACT and in many cases the ACT has established its own targets - commitments the Government will continue to work to. Striking the balance between embedding global sustainability movements in our Framework and ensuring that the indicators we choose are relevant for the ACT and the wellbeing priorities of Canberrans is a key challenge and one we will continue to progress.

6. EMBEDDING WELLBEING IN GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKING

The ACT Government is committed to using the Wellbeing Framework and the information it provides to inform Government priorities, policies and investment decisions – including through the annual Budget process. The Government will use reporting from the Framework to help inform Budget priority areas that will assist in the development and prioritisation of initiatives.

This will require embedding wellbeing considerations in government processes and service delivery - work is underway to determine exactly how each area of Government will integrate the Framework into their processes. The Framework's focus on outcomes across the range of domains will encourage greater consideration of the linkages that contribute to overall wellbeing outcomes. This focus will lead to improved whole-of-government consideration of issues, including across Directorates and agencies when considering policy and service delivery proposals.

The Wellbeing Framework will work in concert with the existing strategic and operational frameworks in place in the ACT. This includes, for example, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement (2019-2028) developed over a significant period of time in close consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the ACT.

The Wellbeing Framework will complement this work by drawing, where appropriate, from the relevant and specific indicators already embedded in these other frameworks and strategies.

6.1 Reporting and dashboard updates

A first full reporting of indicator data and information will be released in the second half of 2020, in the form of an online dashboard in which Canberrans will be able to see how we are tracking against our desired wellbeing outcomes. As noted previously, the development of some indicator data may take some time. The first indicator 'dashboard' will report on available data while subsequent dashboards will expand the information as new data become available.

The development of the Wellbeing Framework, and the policy responses that will result, is an ongoing long-term exercise, and will feature continual engagement between government and the community. Much of the benefit of the Framework will come from this dialogue and joint consideration of issues. Indicator information and data will provide the basis for public discussion about wellbeing in our community and the necessary responses from both the government and community sectors. Indicator data relating to specific population groups or distinct geographic areas will also assist in identifying issues of wellbeing at a 'local' level.

The 2020-21 Budget papers will see the introduction of wellbeing principles throughout its publications. This process will then be thoroughly incorporated in the 2021-22 Budget process and the years ahead as we further progress the extent to which wellbeing shapes both investment priorities and other decision-making processes of Government.

7. NEXT STEPS FOR ACT WELLBEING

7.1 What happens next?

It will be important that the dialogue informing the ACT's Wellbeing Framework continues over the months and years to come. This will be crucial in ensuring the framework remains contemporary to the needs and issues of Canberrans now and in the future. It will need to be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary to ensure this. The ACT Government envisages the variety of forums used in the development of the Framework will continue, including with those community members who typically do not have a regular means of engaging in such conversation.

But in the meantime, further development and unveiling of the Framework will continue, including the release of indicator information and data in the second half of 2020.





ACT Wellbeing Framework