



Tuesday, 31 January 2023

Treasury
Langton Cres
Parkes ACT 2600

Dear Madam/Sir,

Measuring what matters

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on how we can better measure what matters.

A national framework

We support a national framework to measure and track the progress of our nation through a broad, multi-focused lens. A reliable national framework should include short- and long-term measurable indicators and objectives, be apolitical and supported by credible data.

We encourage Government to work collaboratively with states and territories to ensure that efforts in building a national framework are complementary and not duplicated, such as the development of NSW's Economic Stewardship Framework.

A national framework which includes appropriate indicators (which may be linked to policy) and is able to be clearly measured (with supporting quality data) will be important to track Australia's progress, domestically and internationally, in achieving objectives.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

As noted in statement 4: measuring what matters, 'Traditional macroeconomics measures such as GDP play an important role but they only provide a partial view of a community's living standards'. We acknowledge that GDP is a single reliable and timely measure, however it is not a measure of broader prosperity, nor does it effectively measure policy outcomes.

As noted in our publication [*Is policy making measuring up? Rethinking how we measure the success of a nation*](#) national progress is distinct from economic growth and as such the selection of indicators that measure society's values will go beyond those, such as GDP, that solely measure economic growth.

There is no single measure that is able to define all aspects of societal progress and as such it will be important to consider a broader suite of factors that determine prosperity and growth. For example, in the United States, nature and its valuable link to services and economic opportunities are in the process of being recognised as an important measure on the nation's balance sheet.

Tracking and measuring the progress of a dashboard of measures, which goes beyond a single economic measure such as GDP, will require messaging and communication from Government clearly indicating the importance and purpose for Australia to prioritise indicators and measures beyond traditional economic outcomes.

OECD Framework

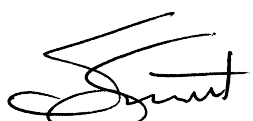
The OECD framework provides a good starting point for developing an internationally comparable framework for Australia. However, the framework has its limitations and does not consider areas, which we believe, should be included to reflect an Australian context. We note that in the Australian [Bureau of Statistics 1370.0 – Measures of Australia's progress 2013](#), that measures outside of the OECD framework were included such as a resilient economy, sustaining the environment and community connections and diversity. Further, we note in the Government's Budget statement (statement 4) the acknowledgement that indicators are often for Australians on average and may not highlight the inequalities that lead to differing outcomes for groups such as First Nations people, women, people living with a disability and young people.

In New Zealand, [the living standards framework dashboard](#) includes measures which reflect a New Zealand context. For example, including cultural capability and belonging and an indicator for work, care and volunteering (instead of work-life balance as per the OECD measure) to expand and include measures which New Zealand considers an important reflection of its societal goals.

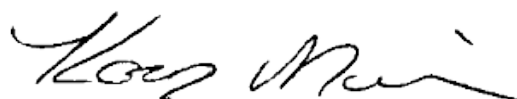
We encourage Government to consider these examples and support the adaptation or expansion of indicators from the OECD framework in order to appropriately capture the Australian context and align with policy priorities.

Should you have any questions about our submission or wish to discuss it with us, please contact Karen McWilliams via email at karen.mcwilliams@charteredaccountantsanz.com or phone +61 612 8078 5451.

Sincerely,



Simon Grant FCA
Group Executive
Advocacy and International Development



Karen McWilliams FCA
Business Reform Leader
Advocacy & Professional Standing

Appendix

About Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) represents over 134,000 financial professionals, supporting them to make a difference to the businesses, organisations and communities in which they work and live. Chartered Accountants are known as Difference Makers. The depth and breadth of their expertise helps them to see the big picture and chart the best course of action.

CA ANZ promotes the Chartered Accountant (CA) designation and high ethical standards, delivers world-class services and life-long education to members and advocates for the public good. We protect the reputation of the designation by ensuring members continue to comply with a code of ethics, backed by a robust discipline process. We also monitor Chartered Accountants who offer services directly to the public.

Our flagship CA Program, the pathway to becoming a Chartered Accountant, combines rigorous education with mentored practical experience. Ongoing professional development helps members shape business decisions and remain relevant in a changing world.

We actively engage with governments, regulators and standard setters on behalf of members and the profession to advocate boldly in the public good. Our thought leadership promotes prosperity in Australia and New Zealand.

Our support of the profession extends to affiliations with international accounting organisations. We are a member of the International Federation of Accountants and are connected globally through Chartered Accountants Worldwide and the Global Accounting Alliance. Chartered Accountants Worldwide brings together members of 15 chartered accounting institutes to create a community of more than 1.8 million Chartered Accountants and students in more than 190 countries. CA ANZ is a founding member of the Global Accounting Alliance which is made up of 10 leading accounting bodies that together promote quality services, share information and collaborate on important international issues.

We have a strategic alliance with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. The alliance represents more than 870,000 current and next generation accounting professionals across 179 countries and is one of the largest accounting alliances in the world providing the full range of accounting qualifications.

We employ more than 500 talented people across Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom.