



ACT WELLBEING FRAMEWORK

*“BUILDING WELLBEING INTO POLICY AND
ACTION IN AUSTRALIA”*

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA WORKSHOP

21 NOVEMBER 2022



CMTEDD wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal People. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Artwork: *Together*, 2019 (detail)
by **Selina Walker**

Wouldn't it be great if we could...

- ▶ report on what matters most to our quality of life - based on extensive community engagement
- ▶ measure the things that matter – not only the economy, but also areas like the environment, connection, health, institutions, safety and identity
- ▶ look beyond the averages to see where we should try to change outcomes
- ▶ use wellbeing to improve policy development, decision making and investment.



How has the ACT Wellbeing Framework evolved?

Initiated by the Chief Minister
– statement of intent in
December 2018

Built with the Canberra
community – over 3000
Canberrans helped choose
the Domains and Indicators

Framework released in March
2020 - just as the first Wave of
COVID19 hit

Wellbeing data dashboard
released April 2021
Children and Young People
data dashboard released in
September 2022

Data is from: Australian
Bureau of Statistics, **University
of Canberra's Living Well in
the ACT Region survey**, ACT
Government administrative
data, and national reports
and surveys

Wellbeing is being used to
help shape the business of
government and the public
service as required by the
10th Parliamentary and
Governing Agreement

The ACT Wellbeing Framework

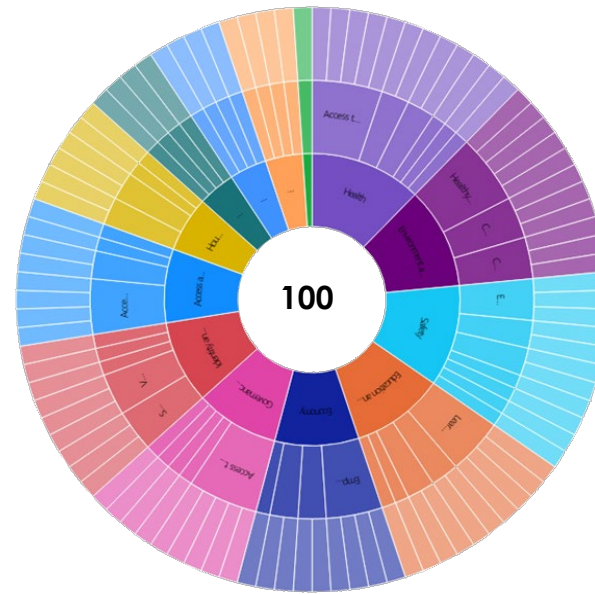
Domains, indicators and measures



12 Domains

ACT Wellbeing Indicators	
Personal wellbeing index This indicator will measure the overall wellbeing of people in the ACT.	
Access and connectivity Access to services Livability Transport use and access Digital access	Housing and home Homelessness Rental stress Housing affordability and availability Housing suitability
Economy Employment Economic performance Business conditions and economic diversity Income inequality	Identity and belonging Sense of belonging and inclusion Support for multiculturalism Arts and culture Connection to Canberra Valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and recognizing our Traditional Custodians
Education and life-long learning Learning growth Equity of educational outcomes Student belonging Early childhood education Learning for life	Living standards Income levels Net worth Cost of living Financial position
Environment and climate Healthy and resilient natural environment Connection to nature Climate resilient environment and community	Safety Feeling safe Victims of crime Domestic and family violence Road safety Workplace safety Emergency services Community resilience to emergencies
Governance and institutions Trust in government Trust in other institutions Feeling that voice and perspective matter Access to justice and restorative practice Human rights	Social connection Sense of social connection Levels of loneliness Levels of volunteering Participation in community events and activities
Health Overall health Best start to life Mental health Life expectancy Access to health services Healthy lifestyle	Time Quality of time Work-life balance Time spent travelling within Canberra Unpaid work including caring

56 Indicators



100 measures

90 with data

10 with stories only

8 specific groups

- Children and young people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Gender
- LGBTIQ+
- Older Canberrans
- People with Disability
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people
- Carers

Visit www.act.gov.au/wellbeing to explore the data

Wellbeing measures by Domain

ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

Access to services	Community satisfaction with ACT Government Services Inclusive access Proximity to services that support wellbeing
Liveable city	Local area liveability Proximity to places that support wellbeing
Transport use and access	Ease of access to places Mode of transport for travel Satisfaction with transport choice
Digital access	Australian Digital Inclusion Index

ECONOMY

Employment	Employment growth Participation rate Underemployment rate Unemployment rate
Economic performance	Labour productivity Real Gross State Product (GSP) growth
Business conditions and economic diversity	Change in number of businesses Industry gross value added growth
Income inequality	Disposable household income percentile ratio – P20/P50 ratio

EDUCATION AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Learning growth	Learning gain – Literacy years 3-5 Learning gain – Literacy years 7-9 Learning gain – Numeracy years 3-5 Learning gain – Numeracy years 7-9
Equity of Educational Outcomes	Relative equity of literacy outcomes Relative equity of numeracy outcomes
Student Belonging	School identification
Early Childhood Education	Proportion of 3-year-olds enrolled in preschool Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before fulltime schooling
Learning for Life	Proportion of ACT adults with non-school qualifications

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

Healthy and resilient natural environment	Ecosystem condition Status of threats to the natural environment Catchment health Water quality Air quality - annual
Connection to nature	Access to waterways Use of green spaces – visitation Use of green spaces – self reported
Climate resilient environment and community	Tree canopy cover Greenhouse gas emissions Heatwave resilience Circular economy (waste)

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Trust in government	Trust in government
Trust in other institutions	Trust in groups and institutions in the ACT
Feeling that voice and perspective matter	Having a say and being heard
Access to justice and restorative practice	Percentage of civil cases finalised – ACT Supreme Court Percentage of criminal cases finalised – ACT Supreme Court Percentage of civil cases finalised – ACT Magistrates Court Percentage of criminal cases finalised – ACT Magistrates Court Percentage of cases finalised – ACAT
Human Rights	Community experience and perception of human rights

Key

Current measure	Data published on the 2021 Wellbeing dashboard
Under development	Data to be published in a future dashboard update

HEALTH

Overall health	Health status
Best start to life	Children who are developmentally on track
Mental health	Mental health status K6 Psychological Distress Scale
Life expectancy	Life expectancy at birth
Access to health services	Access to GP services Access to specialist services Access to mental health services Access to allied health services Access to dentists
Healthy lifestyle	Healthy weight Getting enough sleep

HOUSING AND HOME

Homelessness	People sleeping rough
Rental stress	Rental stress
Housing affordability and availability	Availability of affordable homes for purchase Affordable home purchase
Housing suitability	Housing suitability index Overcrowding

IDENTITY AND BELONGING

Sense of belonging and inclusion	Belonging Inclusion Discrimination
Support for multiculturalism	Culturally inclusive city
Arts and culture	Arts and culture impact on wellbeing
Connection to Canberra	Canberra is a good place to live
Valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and recognising our Traditional Custodians	Valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture Engaging with Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Knowledge of Traditional Custodians

LIVING STANDARDS

Income levels	Disposable income
Net worth	Net worth
Cost of living	Consumer price index
Financial position	Level of prosperity

SAFETY

Feeling safe	Perception of safety in the neighbourhood at night Perception of safety in the neighbourhood during the day
Victims of crime	Victimisation rate of personal crime Victimisation rate of property crime
Domestic and family violence	Community attitudes on violence against women
Road safety	Number of road deaths
Workplace safety	Serious claims incidence rates
Emergency services	Ambulance response time to priority 1 incidents First fire crew on scene of structural fire Community satisfaction with police services
Community resilience to emergencies	Emergency preparedness

SOCIAL CONNECTION

Sense of social connection	Social connection scale
Levels of loneliness	Loneliness scale
Levels of volunteering	Volunteers
Participation in community events and activities	Level of participation in events and activities

TIME

Quality of time	Quality of time scale
Work-life balance	Time spent on work
Time spent travelling within Canberra	Satisfaction with time spent commuting
Unpaid work including caring	People performing unpaid work, including caring

PERSONAL WELLBEING

Personal Wellbeing	Personal Wellbeing Index
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Embedding wellbeing in government processes

The **Parliamentary and Governing Agreement (PaGA)** for the 10th Legislative Assembly commits to **“examining options to ensuring a holistic approach to budgets, decision-making and reporting including consistent, meaningful and measurable strategic and accountability indicators based on wellbeing”**.



Proposals before Government are being increasingly shaped by wellbeing and the Wellbeing Framework

WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
Proposal Name:	Choose an item.
Purpose of proposal:	1. In 200 characters, summarise the reason you are making the proposal and developing the proposal/organisation (i.e. the purpose of your proposal).
IMPACT DESCRIPTION:	1. Identify the wellbeing impacts of this proposal on our people, institutions and/or environment and climate. 2. With the identified proposal name in particular detail, how will the proposal impact on wellbeing, environment, safety, security, quality of life, mental wellbeing, and employment? Will it have an impact on climate change (i.e. greenhouse gas emissions and/or climate resiliency)? If so, how? 3. In the report, you must mention and describe in detail other direct and indirect, or better and unintended? Please explain your thinking here. 4. Will the identified impact assist in addressing system issues, embedding cultural safety, and inspiring engagement and participation with the community and from both under-represented groups?
Who is affected?	1. Identify who is affected by the proposal (community and the region). Be specific according to the proposal. Does the proposal impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? Residents of a neighbourhood? A group within the community? Professionals in a field? A specific service? How will the proposal impact people from the eight priority areas identified in the Wellbeing Framework: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, women, children and young people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, LGBTIQ+ people, older Australians, people with disability, and access groups?
Wellbeing domain:	1. Choose an item.
Priority:	1. Select the domain most closely related to the impact of your proposal. You may wish to refer to other domains (or indicators) in your proposal in the report description area.
Priority rank:	1. Choose an item. 2. Estimate the likelihood for the impact to be realised. Add five stars if needed.
EVIDENCE BASE AND DATA:	1. What do we know now? 2. What evidence do you have to understand the proposed impact? Please describe the data and evidence you use as supporting evidence. It is not sufficient to refer to generalised statistics. 3. Provide additional evidence, such as research, which could further substantiate or elaborate data, information from credible, authoritative, verified, or community-identified sources. 4. Please outline how the proposal would support training, career development and available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. 5. The Wellbeing measures reported on our gov.au/wellbeing are a possible source of evidence – but should only be referred to if relevant to your proposal.
What do we need to know?	1. Which specific and measurable data most commonly used to measure wellbeing (issues). Identify how data and evidence will be collected, analysed, and communicated.
Accountability and evaluation – how will we know this proposal has been successful?	1. Identify how the proposal will be reported on as part of the Outcomes Framework in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028. 2. Where the proposal refers to an existing policy or program, has that policy or program been evaluated? 3. Please outline a high-level evaluation plan (including the period and scope) to report on the proposal's impact on the wellbeing of our people, institutions and environment. This should include: a. A timeline, developed at the time the proposal was prepared and updated as

Wellbeing Impact Assessments (WIAs) have been incorporated in Budget and Cabinet processes



WIAs help us understand how issues and proposals might affect wellbeing across our community, environment and institutions

What is a Wellbeing Impact Assessment? (WIA)



- ▶ WIAs are a tool to help drafters identify and articulate wellbeing impacts.
- ▶ WIAs help the ACT Government plan for and make decisions based on a fuller understanding of the wellbeing impacts of proposals.
- ▶ Full value from WIAs come from their use in the policy or program development stage – not just at a Cabinet/Budget decision-making stage.

The WIA asks for a clear articulation of:

Every proposal is likely to have multiple wellbeing impacts. The WIA template enables multiple impacts to be captured in one document.

- ▶ **Purpose of proposal** – what is driving the proposal and associated policy or program?
- ▶ **Impacts** – how will the proposal impact wellbeing, and whose wellbeing will be impacted (including across specific groups)? What are the timing of impacts?
- ▶ **Evidence base** – what existing data and other evidence helps us to understand the need for this proposal and its impact on wellbeing?
- ▶ **Monitoring and evaluation plan** – how will we know the proposal has had the anticipated impact on wellbeing (including outcomes and data)? What evaluation is proposed if the proposal is agreed?
- ▶ **Key stakeholders** – who have you talked to in developing the proposal and who will you talk to in taking it forward (within government, in the community and beyond)?

ACT Cabinet and Budget processes

CABINET

- ▶ WIAs now must accompany submissions in the Cabinet process (very limited exemptions)
- ▶ Wellbeing impact summaries are released with Cabinet decision summaries following changes to the ACT's Freedom of Information rules

BUDGET

- ▶ Wellbeing focus has improved the consideration of the types and distribution of impacts of initiatives across the community
- ▶ Enhanced community consultation (submissions, YourSay survey, face-to-face)
- ▶ WIAs for all Budget business case proposals
- ▶ Wellbeing discussion groups
- ▶ Building gender focus
- ▶ Incorporating wellbeing into Budget documentation (and OurCBR)

Wellbeing Discussion Groups

- ▶ Wellbeing Discussion Groups, with cross-directorate representation, review proposals and provide a whole-of-government assessment of wellbeing impacts for the consideration of ERC/Cabinet.
- ▶ The whole-of-government membership brings different voices to the table to encourage robust discussions, and at the same time helps develop wellbeing thinking within the ACT Public Service.

**For the
2022-23
Budget:**

**78
participants**



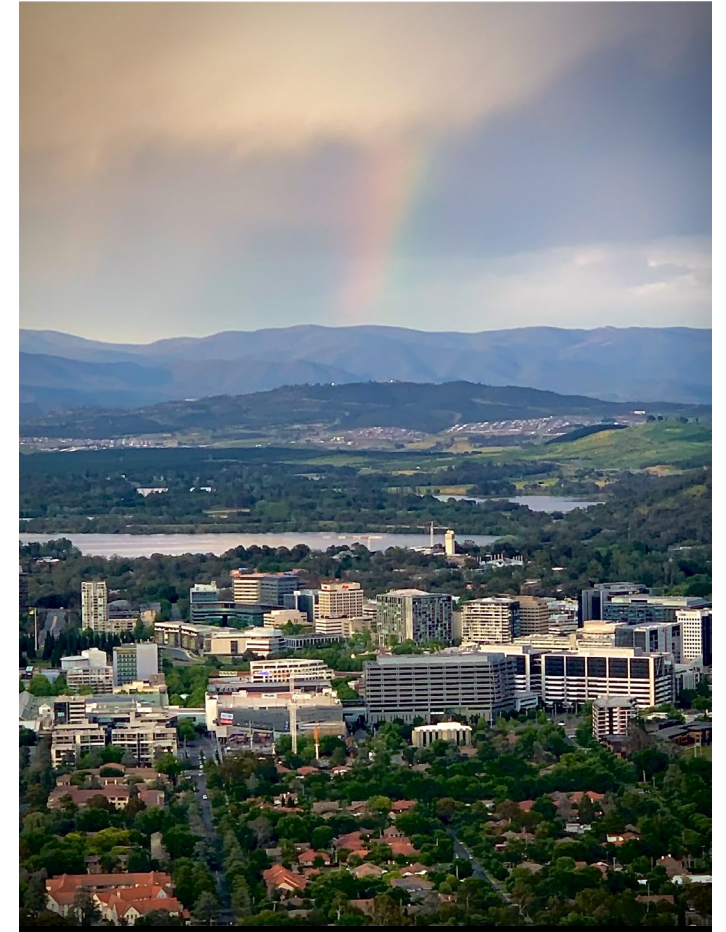
**9
groups**



**183
proposals
rated**

Performance reporting and accountability arrangements

- ▶ A next phase of embedding is to review our performance reporting and accountability arrangements
- ▶ We are exploring options for how formal reporting on the strategies, priorities and activities of the ACTPS might align with reporting on wellbeing outcomes (including whole of government outcomes)
- ▶ Also looking to how we can report on organisational efforts to embed wellbeing as a way of complementing formal reporting requirements
- ▶ At an early stage and keen to learn from other jurisdictions



Current challenges and opportunities

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Task of embedding and changing culture takes patience, persistence, time – part of the journey
- ▶ There is an element of sequencing/layering needed to embed wellbeing practice
- ▶ Data collections and facilitating data sharing across areas
- ▶ Changing the structures and systems that best drive impact requires whole of government commitment and effort
- ▶ This has to be enduring

OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Further engagement with the community
- ▶ Building in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inclusive concept of community wellbeing
- ▶ Exploring the use of narrative based qualitative data alongside quantitative data to measure progress and demonstrate impact
- ▶ Deeper analysis of the drivers of wellbeing/whole of government focus
- ▶ Strengthening the evidence base and harnessing the value of evaluation so we know what works in the ACT context

Role of the centre – nurture, educate, build coalitions, manage issues, instil optimism, reflect, stay the course, collaborate and learn!