Measuring What Matters

Curtin Community Submissions

Kate Chaney MP
Federal Member for Curtin

16 May 2023

Introduction

In Statement 4 of the October 2022-23 Budget, the Federal Government set out early ideas on Measuring What Matters, a new approach to measuring progress. This is in line with many OECD countries that are looking beyond GDP and rethinking what success looks like.

The Government is aiming to release a new standalone Measuring What Matters Statement this year. The Statement will be Australia's first national framework on wellbeing and will evolve over time. It will be used to help assess Australia's progress and guide efforts to create more opportunities for more Australians in more parts of our country.

I made a submission on 20 January 2023 commending the Government for starting the conversation about transitioning to a wellbeing economy. In that submission and in conversations with the Treasurer, I emphasised the need for any wellbeing report to reflect a vision for the country built by our communities.

Treasury has responded to this feedback from me and others and a second round of community consultation resulted, asking communities to provide feedback on the emerging themes identified by Treasury.

This submission contains feedback from two workshops in my community in Curtin on those emerging themes. The first was a workshop with my Youth Advisory Group, which was attended by 20 Year 11 students from schools across the electorate. The second was a workshop attended by 60 Curtin adults who were fairly representative of the demographics of the electorate.

I am proud of the depth and richness of the feedback and the thoughtful engagement of my community in the process.

I acknowledge that this first Measuring What Matters Statement will be just the start of the journey of capturing what matters to Australians. My community looks forward to an ongoing role in that journey and the subsequent structural and cultural shifts needed to ensure that we are not only measuring, but also delivering, what matters.

KEChaney

Kate Chaney MP
Federal Member for Curtin

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FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN

Measuring What Matters:
Consultation Feedback form

Curtin Community Workshop

Meeting details

Meeting host name/ organisation: Kate Chaney MP, Independent Member for Curtin

Meeting host contact details [phone or email]: kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au

Meeting host

☒ Member of Parliament

☐ Local government

☐ Non-government organisation

☐ Business

☐ Academic

☐ Community group

☐ Individual

☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text.

**Meeting date*:* 2/05/2023

Meeting location: The Boulevard Centre, Floreat, WA

Participants attending:

☐ Member of a community organisation

☐ Businesses

☐ Academics

☐ Union members

☒ Individuals

☐ Other

Number of participants: 60

What matters to Australians?

1. Did the five emerging policy themes Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable, Cohesive and Healthy resonate with meeting participants?

☒ Yes ☐ No if not, why not
Individuals identified their own priorities which mapped fairly evenly across the five emerging policy themes (from 11% Healthy to 26% Prosperous). After discussion, participants ranked their top 3 and this led to a more even spread across the five themes (from 16% Inclusive to 27% Prosperous). There was feedback that Cohesive and Inclusive were overlapping in peoples' minds and a number of the descriptors could go in either. It was suggested that some of the descriptors under Inclusive would fit more appropriately under 'Secure', with the remaining descriptors merged under Cohesive (see below).

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2. Which of the following themes are most important to you? (Select three)

Figures included below indicate how frequently descriptors under these themes were identified by participants as being in their top 3 priorities.

☒ **Prosperous:** 42
A growing, productive and resilient economy

☐ **Inclusive: 25**
A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate

☒ **Sustainable: 30**
A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations

☐ **Cohesive: 26**
A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation

☒ **Healthy: 27**
A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future

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3. Which themes or descriptions were most frequently discussed? (Select three)

Figures included below indicate how frequently descriptors under these themes were identified by participants as priorities unprompted.

☒ **Prosperous:** 122
A growing, productive and resilient economy

☒ **Inclusive: 92**
A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate

☐ **Sustainable: 75**
A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations

☒ **Cohesive: 99**

A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation

☐ **Healthy: 51**

A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future

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4. What do you see as the most important issues for future wellbeing? Are these captured by the emerging policy themes?

We did not address future wellbeing separately, but the differences between the Youth Advisory Group (16 year olds) and the Curtin Community Event show some trends – younger people prioritised Safety, Environment and Mental Health more than older people.

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5. How might the descriptions be amended to best reflect our priorities?

Prosperous

This was the most frequently raised priority. The descriptors that resonated the most were access to education and necessary services and amenities.

Access to housing and access to healthcare were two priorities that were raised frequently and could have been specifically identified in a descriptor. Access to healthcare could have sat under Prosperous or Healthy and Access to Housing could have sat under Prosperous or Inclusive. This was a bit confusing.

The descriptors that resonated the most were those that related to a 'fair go for all', including education, services and an economy that provides opportunities for all Australians. The least significant descriptor was 'Dynamic economy which encourages opportunities and entrepreneurship'.

Other priorities that came up that were not covered under this theme included sharing economy, participatory budgeting, putting a higher value on caring professions and better government spending.

Cohesive

This theme was a bit confusing, with significant overlaps with Inclusive. It was suggested that the descriptors from Cohesive and Inclusive could be re-grouped into two themes - Secure (people have access to housing, people feel safe, people can afford life's essentials, economic accessibility, secure jobs) and Cohesive (descriptors relating to democracy, diversity and community).

Other priorities that came up that were not covered under this theme included hope, peace and a sense of purpose.

Inclusive

See above regarding overlap.

There was a strong and broad response that housing access and affordability should be specifically mentioned somewhere. A high proportion of the 60 participants included housing as a priority unprompted.

The phrase 'intergenerational mobility' did not resonate with attendees. People understand the idea of generations improving their security and prosperity but did not call this intergenerational mobility. The absence of any specific mention of LGBTIQA+ inclusion, our multicultural society or disability under Diversity was also noted.

Other priorities that came up that were not covered under this theme included specific mention of welcoming immigrants or multi-culturalism and work/life balance.

Sustainable

The 'healthy natural environment' descriptor resonated most strongly, but it was noted that this conflated climate change impact and environmental protection. In most people's minds they are closely connected. There was discussion about whether the descriptor 'A society that values the social, cultural and economic significance of our natural environment' was necessary, as it would be implied in the 'healthy natural environment' descriptor.

Other priorities that came up that were not covered under this theme included light and air pollution, circular economy and sustainable population growth.

Healthy

Physical and mental health were frequently discussed with the emphasis on access to health care services as a priority, but not included in the top 3 by many participants. There was discussion about whether this could be rephrased to acknowledge that some people will not have good physical/mental health, but access to support or better outcomes is more achievable.

Conversely, a sense of satisfaction and enough time for community were not raised independently but included in top 3 priorities after consideration.

Other priorities that came up that were not covered under this theme included access to physical activity and the appropriate infrastructure, healthy food and better community approaches to death and dying.

Other

There were 24 mentions of priorities that did not fit into the five themes. These were diverse, but included access to justice, free media/free speech and spirituality.

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6. Are there any indicators and existing data sources that will be critical to inform the emerging policy themes?

The event did not look at data sources.

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7. Is there any additional information you would like to see in the Measuring What Matters Statement? If so, please outline.

It would be good to see the plan for further community consultation as Measuring What Matters progresses - to be a useful policy tool, the Statement will need to reflect the views of the community.

Measuring What Matters:
Consultation Feedback form

Curtin Youth Advisory Group Workshop

Meeting details

Meeting host name/ organisation: Kate Chaney MP, Independent Member for Curtin

Meeting host contact details [phone or email]: kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au

Meeting host

☒ Member of Parliament

☐ Local government

☐ Non-government organisation

☐ Business

☐ Academic

☐ Community group

☐ Individual

☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text.

Meeting date*: 2/05/2023

Meeting location: Perth Modern School, SubiacoClick or tap here to enter text.

Participants attending:

☐ Member of a community organisation

☐ Businesses

☐ Academics

☐ Union members

☒ Individuals

☐ Other

Number of participants: 20

What matters to Australians?

1. Did the five emerging policy themes Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable, Cohesive and Healthy resonate with meeting participants?

☒ Yes ☐ No   if not, why not

The students were unprompted in their decision making of what mattered to them, but there was a spread over the five themes, with Prosperous the most common (32%) followed by Healthy and Cohesive (202% and 20%). The overlapping between different descriptors created some confusion (eg access to services and health).

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2. Which of the following themes are most important to you? (Select three)

Figures included below indicate how frequently descriptors under these themes were identified by participants as being in their top 3 priorities.

☒ **Prosperous:** 25
A growing, productive and resilient economy

☐ **Inclusive: 14**
A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate

☒ **Sustainable:** 18
A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations

☒ **Cohesive: 29**
A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation

☐ **Healthy: 14**
A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future

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3. Which themes or descriptions were most frequently discussed? (Select three)

Figures included below indicate how frequently descriptors under these themes were identified by participants as priorities unprompted.

☒ **Prosperous:** 32
A growing, productive and resilient economy

☐ **Inclusive: 19**
A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate

☐ **Sustainable:** 14
A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations

☒ **Cohesive: 27**
A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation

☒ **Healthy: 30**
A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future

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4. What do you see as the most important issues for future wellbeing? Are these captured by the emerging policy themes?

We did not address future wellbeing separately, but the differences between the Youth Advisory Group (16 year olds) and the Curtin Community Event show some trends – younger people prioritised Safety, Environment and Mental Health more than older people.

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5. How might the descriptions be amended to best reflect our priorities?

Prosperous
Access to services was largely focused on access to health services, which could be specifically mentioned.

Cohesive

Safety was a clear priority under this theme and was mentioned by nearly all participants. This covered physical and online safety. This was a much more frequent priority for young people than for the older cohort.

While participants did not mention Closing the Gap unprompted, after discussion it was recognised as being a priority.

Inclusive

There was similar feedback in this event about the significant overlap between Prosperous and Inclusive with housing and healthcare being raised as significant priorities that probably needed their own descriptor.

Similarly, intergenerational mobility did not resonate with the group and less technical wording could be considered for this description.

A fair justice system was identified as a priority but didn't fit clearly in any descriptor.

Sustainable

Surprisingly, Sustainable was listed as a priority less frequently in the younger group. Healthy natural environment was identified as the highest priority within the theme.

Healthy

Mental health was a clear priority for the younger group, with a significantly higher representation than in the adult group.

There was discussion about the descriptor," a society that values the contributions of all regardless of health or ability". This was thought to maybe belong under inclusion rather than Healthy.

Other

Access to technology and an unbiased media were other priorities that did not seem to have a natural fit in the emerging themes. Unbiased media was a common mention between both the youth group and the wider group.

6. Are there any indicators and existing data sources that will be critical to inform the emerging policy themes?

The event did not look at data sources.

7. Is there any additional information you would like to see in the Measuring What Matters Statement? If so, please outline.

It would be good to see the plan for further community consultation as Measuring What Matters progresses - to be a useful policy tool, the Statement will need to reflect the views of the community.