



30th May 2023

Measuring What Matters, Social Policy Division Treasury Langton Cres Parkes ACT 2600 MeasuringWhatMatters@Treasury.gov.au

Measuring What Matters – second consultation process

Introduction

We represent the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) and National Shelter and are writing to you about Stage Two of the consultation for Measuring What Matters. We welcome the opportunity to further engage with the process, particularly being able to bring forward the views of the Australian housing and homelessness sector.

CHIA is the peak body representing not for profit community housing organisations (CHOs) across Australia. Our 150+ members manage a \$40 billion-plus portfolio of more than 115,000 homes, housing people on low and moderate incomes who find it hard to access affordable and appropriate tenancies in the private market.

National Shelter is a non-government peak body that aims to improve housing access, affordability, appropriateness, safety and security for people living on low incomes. Since 1975, National Shelter has worked towards this goal by influencing government policy and action, and by raising public awareness about housing issues.

Both National Shelter and CHIA each provided a submission to Stage One of the Measuring What Matters consultation¹.

We would like to firmly express our disappointment that wellbeing measures do not include housing or homelessness. Housing is a critical issue for so many Australians. The falling provision of social and affordable housing, and rental markets remaining expensive, insecure, and of poor quality for too many. Opportunities for households to secure or remain in home ownership have dropped. This has critical implications on the health and wellbeing of families, particularly children, and community wellbeing. The housing crisis has also severely impacted on productivity and workforce retention, particularly in rural and regional areas. Moreover, we quoted research in CHIA's first submission that demonstrated the link between investment in social and affordable housing and health and well-being outcomes.

We also believe that further consultation is needed before the government finalises its well-being measures. Although engaging with a well-informed sector, reasonably attuned to the

¹ See https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/c2023-379612-community_housing_industry_association.pdf and https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/c2023-379612-national_shelters.pdf

subject matter, it was nevertheless difficult to design and run the process and as importantly understand how the results will be used.

Methodology

The consultation pack for Stage Two formed the basis of our consultation with the sector.

CHIA and National Shelter held a joint sector briefing on the 15th May 2023 about the housing measures in the 2023-2024 federal budget, and then invited participants to respond to a survey on Measuring What Matters. The survey closed close of business 19th May 2023.

We first asked respondents to prioritise their top three policy themes, and then to provide further information on important issues for future wellbeing. Respondents were then asked to prioritise their top three descriptors under each policy theme. As housing and homelessness were not specifically included as draft descriptors under the policy themes, we included draft descriptors with a housing or homelessness focus. Finally, respondents were asked to provide information any indicators and existing data sources, as well as additional information they would like to see in the Measuring What Matters Statement.

The survey was available online via Google Forms. A total of 31 responses were received.

A summary of the outcomes is provided below. The full survey with responses is attached.

Outcomes

Theme/descriptor	Question	Priority list outcomes
Policy themes	Which of the following policy themes are most important to	Healthy A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future.
	you?	2. Sustainable A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations.
		3. Inclusive A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate.
Prosperous - a growing, productive and resilient	, ,	1. People have access to safe, secure and affordable housing that enables them to fully participate in society and the economy throughout their life.
economy	of Prosperous are most important to you?	2. People have access to education, knowledge and training so they have the skills to fully participate in society and the economy throughout their life.
		3. People have access to necessary services and amenities.
Inclusive - a society that Which of the following three		1.A society that allows all people to afford life's essentials.
shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate		2. A society which recognises that there needs to be a supply of housing that is appropriate for different incomes levels and life stages.
participate	to you!	3.A society that supports diversity and equity.
Sustainable - a natural environment that is valued	descriptors for the policy theme	1.A healthy natural environment for current and future generations, protected from the damage being caused by climate change.
and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and	of Sustainable are most important to you?	2.A society that values the social, cultural and economic significance of our natural environment.
future generations		3. A society and economy that is resilient and adapting to a changing climate.
Cohesive - a safe and	Which of the following three	1.A society where people feel safe at home, online and in the community.
cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation	descriptors for the policy theme of Cohesive are most important to you?	2. People participate in the democratic process and engage in their community.
encourages participation	to you:	3.A society that is Closing the Gap and values First Nations culture.

Healthy - a society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future
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We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these consultation outcomes with you, how they will be used and the inclusion of housing as a measure of wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

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Wendy Hayhurst

Chief Executive Officer, CHIA

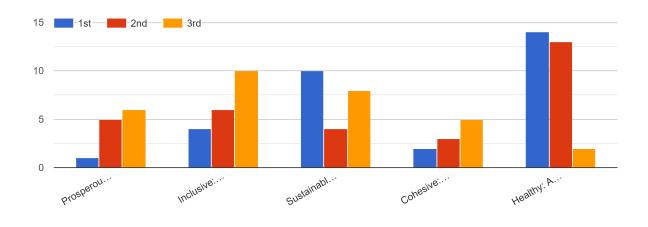
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Attachment One: Survey results

Policy themes - Which of the following policy themes are most important to you?

Policy themes Which of the following policy themes are most important to you? (Select three)



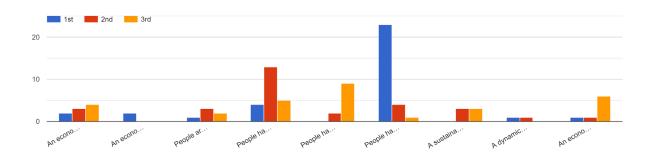
What do you see as the important issues for future wellbeing? Are these captured by the emerging policy themes?

- Wage growth as an issue affecting cost of living.
- for minimum wage workers the future is looking very grim as there just isn't enough affordable housing for key workers
- Not generating unreasonable levels of anxiety around issues that we cannot control.
- Affordability/cost of living. These issues only have Band-Aid solutions.
- Housing access & security the emerging policy themes do not capture access to safe, affordable & secure housing as a basic human right.
- Secure and safe communities and housing. I felt this is not captured in the policy themes.
- The need to address growing wealth inequality that is particularly affecting young people. Affordable housing is a key to this.
- Addressing the social-economic inequity, which is part of the broad inclusive and economic themes but may need more specific mention or in a separate theme.
- People have access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing in the location of their choice.
- Good governance
- Mental and physical well-being, affordable housing, generational connection, Youth values, Law and order, available infrastructure.
- Affordable housing or wages to match. Access to reasonable priced and quality education. Quality of local services, public and active transport.
- Housing is obviously one of the most critical things for wellbeing & it is not adequately being addressed at the present time. Hard to believe in a prosperous country like Australia many people are struggling to put a roof over their ahead let alone one that contributes to their wellbeing, is well maintained to health standards & provides sufficient space for people to continue with their creative interests. Would suggest future planners & architects read the book Your Brain on Art which clearly shows how art & nature contribute to mental health.

- Future wellbeing can only be addressed when we have a system which measures itself via the social determinants of health. Policy needs true reform to address deeply embedded issues of wealth inequality, treating housing as free market commodity rather than a fundamental human right and disadvantage as a community not individual problem. Future wellbeing can only be achieved by moving out of capitalism to a resource-based economy with social and economic settings which accept the economy is powered by PEOPLE, not abstract units of measures. Currently, emerging policy themes (or reactions) are tinkering at best and nowhere near to effectively addressing structural inequality, widening wealth gaps and exploitation of people and natural resources.
- Basic needs of all citizens are met; income inequality is addressed difference between the lowest and highest paid needs to be low and kept low.
- Wellbeing requires that minimum expectations can be met for all people living in Australia for access to healthcare, education and a safe suitable place to live.
- Equity and equality. This is partly covered by 'Inclusive', but more focus could be placed on measuring the degree to which wellbeing is distributed amongst our community.
- So many people are in unsafe unsustainable housing and cannot afford to address other important issues including, eating properly and attending to medical matters.
 More affordable housing will lead to a flow on impact for many.

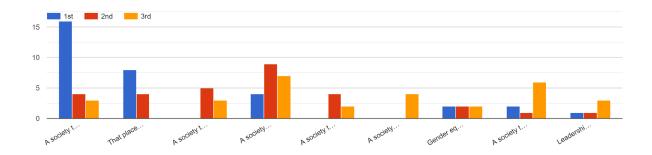
Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Prosperous are most important to you?

Prosperous - a growing, productive and resilient economy Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Prosperous are most important to you? (Select three)



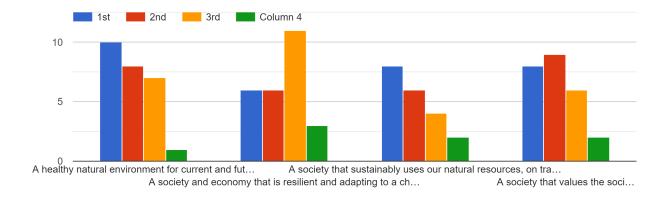
Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Inclusive are most important to you?

Inclusive - a society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Inclusive are most important to you? (Select three)



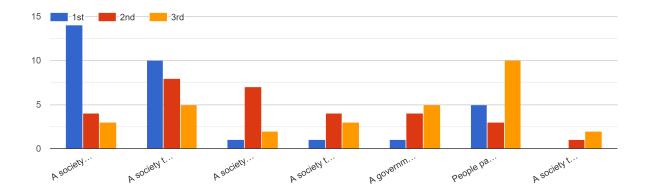
Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Sustainable are most important to you?

Sustainable - a natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations...ainable are most important to you? (Select three)



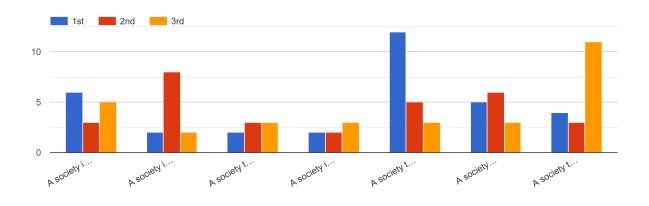
Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Cohesive are most important to you?

Cohesive - a safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Cohesive are most important to you? (Select three)



Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Healthy are most important to you?

Healthy - a society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future Which of the following three descriptors for the p...e of Healthy are most important to you? (Select three)



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

- The lack of service resources to accommodate the needs of mental and physical health.
- Measures around people's access to housing (levels of housing stress, overcrowding, homelessness) and quality services (education, health, transport).
- Gender pays gap and wage inequity across industries. Annual tracking of wealth
 disparity in Australia. Government spending should acknowledge who financially
 benefits from the spending initiatives, both in the decision-making process and in post
 spending acquittal process. Happiness measures need to be utilised, so we consider
 the unique aspects that people value in their lives, these are not considered in decisionmaking at present. We need to measure human rights (the UN ones) and identify where
 people in Australia are not able to access basic human rights.
- Census, Homelessness statistics, youth incarceration statistics, Employment statistics
- There are a huge number of indicators & data sources available to those who make the
 decisions. What is needed is accountability & transparency so that the everyday person
 knows who & what are government officials are listening to.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, World Health Organisation, Australian Institute as examples of data sources. Indicators such as decreasing wealth gaps, access to safe, affordable and secure housing, children's rights charter, Indigenous and Women's morality rates, women's work as a measure of GDP. Economic themes which consider a post-capitalist, post-neo liberal economy transformed to a resource-based economy.
- NCOSS Report on Mapping Economic Disadvantage
- Homelessness services data linked with other service data such as health, education, employment, justice, etc.

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

- Nil I feel that society and the current needs as it stands at the present moment speaks for itself.
- Wealth disparity, happiness and human rights. We need to measure how policy and government investment impacts wealth inequity and decisions need to be made limit support for wealthy people and improve wealth creation for those living in poverty. We need to focus less on economic measures and more on happiness and what create meaningful, healthy and happy lives, we want a government structure that focuses on the most important things. Australia needs to address our poverty problem and measure openly people's ability to access their core human rights. We need to think of human rights as a minimum standard that needs to be met.
- Measuring mental health
- All measurement should include cross-cutting themes of inclusion and equity, rather than having them as standalone themes.
- Family and domestic violence should be tackled as seriously as terrorism and the sector should be funded accordingly. Is it the 2nd largest cause of homelessness in this country and the leading cause for women and children.

Attachment Two: Survey questions

Measuring What Matters

The Australian Government is developing 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. The Statement will seek to assess progress on a broad range of social and environmental indicators alongside traditional economic measures. The October 2022-23 Budget included early ideas of Measuring What Matters.

Stage 1 of the consultation closed early this year with both National **Shelter** and **CHIA**

providing submissions.

Stage 2 of the consultation has now commenced and National Shelter and CHIA have joined together to seek the sectors' feedback. In this stage, we are seeking feedback on the emerging policy themes and descriptions

More information on Stage 2 of Measuring What Matters is available here.

Closing date for the survey is 5pm Friday 19th May 2023.

emma.greenhalgh@shelter.org.au Switch accounts



Not shared





	1st	2nd	3rd
Inclusive: A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate			
Sustainable: A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations			
Healthy: A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future			
Cohesive: A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation			
Prosperous: A growing, productive and resilient economy			

Prosperous - a growing, post of the following the most important to you? Select three)		_	Prosperous are
	1st	2nd	3rd
An economy that provides opportunities for all Australians			
An economy that is more resilient and less vulnerable to shocks			
People are financially secure.			
People have access to education, knowledge and training so they have the skills to fully participate in society and the economy throughout their life.			
People have access to necessary services and amenities.			
People have access to safe, secure and affordable housing that enables them to fully participate in society and the economy throughout their life.			
A sustainable budget that can continue to deliver the services Australians rely on and can buffer the economy against			

future shocks.		
A dynamic economy, which encourages and offers opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship.		
An economy that seizes the opportunities from the net zero transition and digitisation.		
digitisation.		



nclusive - a society that participate Which of the following the mportant to you? Select three)		-	
	1st	2nd	3rd
A society that allows all people to afford life's essentials.			
That places a high priority on reducing homelessness			
A society that provides people access to secure, well-paying jobs.			
A society which recognises that there needs to be a supply of housing that is appropriate for different incomes levels and life stages.			
A society that supports social and economic accessibility and intergenerational mobility.			
A society which recognises that communities will change in response to a growing and changing population			
Gender equality, including at work and in the community.			
A society that			



Sustainable - a natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Sustainable are most important to you? (Select three)					
	1st	2nd	3rd	Column 4	
A healthy natural environment for current and future generations, protected from the damage being caused by climate change.					
A society and economy that is resilient and adapting to a changing climate.					
A society that sustainably uses our natural resources, on track to reach to net zero emissions.					
A society that values the social, cultural and economic significance of our natural environment.					





conesive - a safe and conarticipation Which of the following the moortant to you? (Select three)		at celebrates culture or the policy theme of	
	1st	2nd	3rd
A society where people feel safe at home, online and in the community.			
A society that is Closing the Gap and values First Nations culture.			
A society where people have the time and opportunity to participate in the arts, culture and sporting activities.			
A society that has close relationships with family and friends.			
A government that is trusted by the public.			
People participate in the democratic process and engage in their community.			
A society that supports engagement in the community through volunteering or other means.			



Healthy - a society in who health now and into the following the important to you? (Select three)	future		
	1st	2nd	3rd
A society in which people are in good physical health.			
A society in which people are in good mental health.			
A society that ensures the health and development of its children.			
A society in which people are generally satisfied with their life.			
A society that designs places, communities and homes which enable good physical and mental wellbeing			
A society where people have enough time for family, friends, personal interests and their community.			
A society that values the contributions of all regardless of health or ability.			



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

Your answer

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

Your answer



	1st	2nd	3rd
Healthy: A society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future			
Inclusive: A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate			
Cohesive: A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation			
Prosperous: A growing, productive and resilient economy			
Sustainable: A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations			

by the emerging policy themes?

Your answer



Prosperous - a growing, Which of the following th			Prosperous are
most important to you? (Select three)			
	1st	2nd	3rd
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An economy that is more resilient and less vulnerable to shocks			
People are financially secure.			
People have access to education, knowledge and training so they have the skills to fully participate in society and the economy throughout their life.			
People have access to necessary services and amenities.			
People have access to safe, secure and affordable housing that enables them to fully participate in society and the economy throughout their life.			
A sustainable budget that can continue to deliver the services Australians rely on and can buffer the economy against			

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A dynamic economy, which encourages and offers opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship.		
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digitisation.		



Inclusive - a society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate						
Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Inclusive are most important to you? (Select three)						
	1st	2nd	3rd			
A society that allows all people to afford life's essentials.						
That places a high priority on reducing homelessness						
A society that provides people access to secure, well-paying jobs.						
A society which recognises that there needs to be a supply of housing that is appropriate for different incomes levels and life stages.						
A society that supports social and economic accessibility and intergenerational mobility.						
A society which recognises that communities will change in response to a growing and changing population						
Gender equality, including at work and in the community.						
A society that						



Sustainable - a natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Sustainable are most important to you? (Select three)							
	1st	2nd	3rd	Column 4			
A healthy natural environment for current and future generations, protected from the damage being caused by climate change.							
A society and economy that is resilient and adapting to a changing climate.							
A society that sustainably uses our natural resources, on track to reach to net zero emissions.							
A society that values the social, cultural and economic significance of our natural environment.							





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1st	2nd	3rd
	nree descriptors fo	thesive society that celebrates culture aree descriptors for the policy theme of the color of



Healthy - a society in which people feel well and are in good physical and mental health now and into the future Which of the following three descriptors for the policy theme of Healthy are most important to you? (Select three)						
	1st	2nd	3rd			
A society in which people are in good physical health.						
A society in which people are in good mental health.						
A society that ensures the health and development of its children.						
A society in which people are generally satisfied with their life.						
A society that designs places, communities and homes which enable good physical and mental wellbeing						
A society where people have enough time for family, friends, personal interests and their community.						
A society that values the contributions of all regardless of health or ability.						



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

Your answer

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

Your answer

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