

Measuring What Matters (second round of consultation) – yourtown's advocacy submission



What is it about?

The Treasury (Australian Government) is working with the community to release a new standalone Measuring What Matters Statement in 2023. 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.

Why is it important?

In January 2023, the first round of consultation occurred. A recurring theme from this consultation was that there should be a strong focus on children and families as well as the importance of broad and inclusive public consultation. To further inform the Measuring What Matters Statement the Treasury opened a second round of consultation to seek community feedback through organisations hosting their own feedback sessions.

yourtown's consultation with young people

yourtown recognises that children and young people are experts in their own lives. In developing this submission, we worked directly with a group of young people aged 18 to 26, to hear their thoughts and ideas on what wellbeing means to them, and what they think should be included in the Wellbeing Statement.

Some of **yourtown's** key messages:

1. Young People told us the top 5 issues most important for their wellbeing were:

Affordable and accessible healthcare (including both physical and mental health); cost of living; infrastructure (including access to nature, reliable public transport, and accessible spaces); financial and job security; and support networks.

"I think it's important that those of all abilities are included and encouraged to participate in the community. It's also important that we have a society that not only supports but also values diversity."

JY., aged 18 - 26

2. Young people told us the top 5 issues most important for their community's wellbeing were:

Cost of living; community infrastructure; accessible and affordable healthcare (including both physical and mental health); community education and decision making; and community engagement.

3. We need to consider the diverse experiences and wellbeing of all young people:

The general feedback highlighted that the diverse experience and wellbeing needs of all young people can not be captured through categorising or lumping all the participants into a homogenous group. Each young person has a viewpoint nuanced by their personal experience, cultures, values, and needs.

"It sometimes feels like young people are screaming into the void with how little action is being taken on issues important to them."

ZK., aged 18 - 26

4. We recommended that the Treasury work with yourtown to conduct a national survey, through our Kids Helpline website to better understand what wellbeing means to young people, especially those in rural and remote locations.

yourtown recommends that young people have direct involvement in developing wellbeing statements, and frameworks. This means giving young people a meaningful voice and facilitating direct participation in building and co-producing solutions with government around all wellbeing measures and proposals.

READ YOURTOWN'S FULL SUBMISSION

