

Answers to questions on notice: Australian National Development Index (ANDI)

In my evidence, I emphasized the importance of keeping two separate exercises apart: measuring the effectiveness of government program and services in delivering wellbeing, especially for vulnerable groups; and developing a framework for measuring (and setting goals for) the overall wellbeing of people of NSW.

The first exercise is important and valuable, of course, at any time, but it is essentially about measuring program effectiveness for users and clients of government programs and services. Developing a longer-term wellbeing framework for all NSW people and the environment is a broader task that will require careful planning, time and resources. However, once it is established it will also provide a more effective basis for measuring the wellbeing impact of government programs and services, amongst a number of other benefits, such as stronger democracy, and better planning.

As I indicated in my evidence, the task of developing a wellbeing framework can be divided up into clear and concrete stages with outcomes and deliverables identified for each stage. Following the hearing, I have sent to you and Mr. Li a number of reports which I think might be helpful for the committee. These include a summary of the Western Australian project, which, as you can see, is divided into stages and deliverables over a 5-year period.

So I think that the first stage of developing the NSW framework should be to plan out the whole exercise (including if desired an initial review of the wellbeing impact of government services and the adequacy of existing wellbeing measures to evaluate them) and especially an inclusive community engagement program to identify key aspirations and desired outcomes for wellbeing and state progress (which itself can be done in stages, with clear outcomes for each).