

Answers to questions on notice: NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)

NCOSS agrees that indicators should include measures of wellbeing. We note that there are several draft metrics that relate to individual wellbeing, or indicators of future outcomes that support wellbeing (e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children preschool enrolment). There is also a section that includes “wellbeing metrics” such as life expectancy, self-assessed health, and percentage of children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the AEDC.

In addition to these, NCOSS reiterates the significant evidence linking poverty with negative life outcomes across many of the Framework’s draft wellbeing areas, including Healthy, Skilled and Secure. Including a measure of poverty should therefore be a priority in the Framework. NCOSS notes that there is no nationally agreed definition of poverty, and recognises the role played by the Commonwealth Government in relevant data collection and policy design. As such, the NSW Government should join the sector in advocating that the Commonwealth design an agreed national definition of poverty and commit to measuring it.

