

**Submission
No 1**

**A FRAMEWORK FOR PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND DRIVING
WELLBEING OUTCOMES IN NSW**

Name: Mr Grant Mistler

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Dear Public Accounts Committee

RE: Inquiry into a Framework for Performance Reporting and Driving Wellbeing Outcomes in NSW

Thank you very much for undertaking this valuable inquiry and collaborating in a conducive manner.

I viewed the Commonwealth document Measuring What Matters that was released last year, and what I feel is needed to articulate action items at a NSW level are indicators that we develop locally to align with the Strong Foundations: Getting it Right in the First 1000 Days framework,¹ or something similar. This is my first recommendation here. The Strong Foundations: Getting it Right in the First 1000 Days is a collaboration between the Centre for Community Child Health at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, Bupa Australia, the Bupa Health Foundation and PwC Australia. This is because the first 1000 days from pregnancy to age two offers a crucial window of opportunity to create brighter, healthier futures for our future generations.

As I previously illustrated in my submission to the 2019 Inquiry into Support for Children of Imprisoned Parents in NSW,² we already had the underfunded and revolutionary Their Futures Matter dataset³ that was later discontinued. That research program urgently needs funding to restart and to provide more statistically robust evidence to support our decision-making and investments regarding children and young people. Although "Their Futures Matter lacked mechanisms to secure cross portfolio buy-in and did not have authority to drive reprioritisation of government investment",³ that is the heart of many of our hurdles within NSW, in that interagency collaborations and partnerships to give 'more bang for your buck' do not appear to be mandated and explicitly supported as our main priority in NSW. This is my second recommendation here.

¹ <https://www.rch.org.au/ccch/first-thousand-days/>

²

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ladocs/submissions/67247/Submission%203%20-%20Grant%20Mistler%20-%20Support%20for%20Children%20of%20Imprisoned%20Parents%20in%20NSW.pdf>

³ <https://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/our-work/reports/their-futures-matter>

In my submission to the 2023 Inquiry into Equity, Accessibility and Appropriate Delivery of Outpatient and Community Mental Health Care in NSW,⁴ I highlighted how NSW used to have long-term whole-of-government planning documents such as the five-year A New Direction for NSW State Plan that began in 2006, and the ten-year NSW 2021: A Plan to Make NSW Number One that was launched in 2011. Without those large and concrete roadmaps, government departments and other interagency key enablers are lacking the mandate and explicit support for interagency collaborations and partnerships.

My third recommendation here is that we need a new five-year or ten-year plan so that we conserve our time and financial resources, and so that we spend our time and financial resources with mandated and explicitly supported interagency collaborations and partnerships to achieve better performance and better wellbeing outcomes. We need to have that mechanism built into the Framework for Performance Reporting and Driving Wellbeing Outcomes in NSW so that it is crystal clear that we cannot continue to operate in silos, and that we cannot allow ground-breaking and world-leading initiatives such as the Their Futures Matter dataset to fail, and that we cannot operate without non-government organisations and charities at the core of our long-term goals.

If we do not include meaningful, measurable and trackable holistic indicators into our performance and wellbeing dashboard, we will fail again as we failed under the Baird, Berejiklian and Perrottet governments. By this I explicitly mean failed projects such as: the new public transport train, metro, bus and ferry overspends and ongoing debacles; the CBD light rail overspend and debacle; the Northern Beaches Hospital debacle; the Rozelle interchange overspend and debacle; the forever systemic housing and rental crises across NSW; the koala population crisis and the ongoing logging of koala habitat debacle; the ongoing new-building defects as well as the combustible cladding debacles. The Baird, Berejiklian and Perrottet governments failed us miserably and we will continue to pay for their wanton errors into the future. I feel one reason is that our five-year A New Direction for NSW State Plan, and our ten-year NSW 2021: A Plan to Make NSW Number One were ignored by them, and they were not revised or updated under the Baird, Berejiklian or Perrottet governments on purpose.

Thank you kindly in advance for considering my submission and my three recommendations above today. I look forward to following your progress and your insights for this crucial inquiry.

Yours faithfully

Grant Mistler

⁴ <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/submissions/80124/0001%20Mr%20Grant%20Mistler.pdf>