



Overview of the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework - Indicators of Wellbeing

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has a statutory responsibility to monitor the wellbeing of all children and young people living in Western Australia and advocate on their behalf.

The Commissioner developed the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework (WMF) to monitor and report on the wellbeing of Western Australian (WA) children and young people.

The WMF is informed by the Commissioner's long-term vision:

That all children and young people are heard, are healthy and safe, reach their potential and are welcomed as valued members of the community and in doing so we build a brighter future for the whole community.¹

The WMF encompasses the following three components:

| Wellbeing Monitoring Framework | | |
|--|---|--|
| Profile of Children and Young People | Indicators of Wellbeing | Policy strategies and responses |
| <p>Purpose: Provide a demographic profile of children and young people in WA.</p> | <p>Purpose: Provide information on a range of indicators on the wellbeing of children and young people across the life course and over time.</p> | <p>Purpose: Provide an overview and analysis of policy strategies aimed to support children and young people.</p> |
| <p>Overview: This report provides an overview of the population of children and young people in WA.</p> <p>Includes a focus on children and young people who experience vulnerability and hardship, including children and young people in the juvenile justice system, in out-of-home care, with disability and living in poverty.</p> | <p>Overview: The information will be structured by age across three domains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• learning and participating• healthy and connected• safe and supported <p>Indicators in each area will be informed by a range of measures. Analysis of these measures will show trends over time and highlight critical areas of concern, including information gaps.</p> | <p>Overview: Summarises the action of government to address indicators of wellbeing, including recommendations from the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA and departmental frameworks and initiatives.</p> <p>Will build a history of action over time.</p> |
| <p>Status: Completed</p> | <p>Status: First release 2018</p> | <p>Status: Development 2019-20</p> |

The [*Profile of Children and Young People*](#) has been published and is updated on a regular basis.

The *Policy strategy and responses* component of the framework will use the data from the *Profile* and the *Indicators of Wellbeing* to review existing policy strategies aimed at supporting children and young people. This component of the framework will be developed in 2019-2020.

Purpose of the WMF – Indicators of Wellbeing

The *Indicators of Wellbeing* provides data on a range of measures to monitor the wellbeing of WA's children and young people across the life course and over time.

The indicators and measures are structured across three key age groups (0 to 5 years, 6 to 11 years and 12 to 17 years) and three domains:

- learning and participating
- healthy and connected
- safe and supported.

These domains take into consideration how families, communities and services enable children to be healthy, safe and learning across childhood, adolescence and the transition to adulthood. They also align with the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, which states that the wellbeing of children and young people includes the care, development, education, health and safety of children and young people.

Within each domain critical short-term outcomes have been selected that have been shown to improve the wellbeing of WA's children and young people.

Indicators and measures have then been selected which track and measure progress towards these short-term outcomes. The selection of the indicators and measures was guided by the following principles:

- They are informed by what children and young people say is important to them.
- They enable policy and decision makers to track and assess progress towards strong wellbeing outcomes for children and young people by measuring their lived experiences.
- They reflect all critical aspects of children and young people's wellbeing and are not restricted by a current lack of data.

The following diagram details the outcomes and indicators for each age group and domain and outlines how the *Indicators of Wellbeing* is framed within the overall context of the work of the Commissioner and the *Wellbeing Monitoring Framework*.

WMF - Indicators of Wellbeing

Our Vision
That all children and young people are heard, are healthy and safe, reach their potential and are welcomed as valued members of the community and in doing so we build a brighter future for the whole community.

| Promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people | | Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people | | Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|------|-------|
| Indicators of Wellbeing | Domain | Short-term outcome | Indicator | Age-range | | |
| | | | | 0-5 | 6-11 | 12-17 |
| | Learning and participating | Children are provided with opportunities that support their learning | Informal learning opportunities | ✓ | | |
| | | | Participation in formal and informal childcare | ✓ | | |
| | | Children develop the skills needed for successful learning | Formal learning opportunities | ✓ | | |
| | | | Readiness for learning | ✓ | | |
| | | Children transition to school successfully | Transition to school | ✓ | | |
| | | Children and young people are engaged and supported with learning | School attendance | | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | A sense of belonging and supportive relationships at school | | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | Academic achievement | | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Autonomy and voice | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | Children transition to high school successfully | Transition to high school | | ✓ | | |
| | Young people are prepared for, and feel positive about, their future | Transition from school | | | ✓ | |
| | Healthy and connected | Children are provided the best start to life through a positive antenatal environment | Positive antenatal environment | ✓ | | |
| | | Children are screened for developmental and medical conditions | Developmental screening | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | | Children and young people are physically and mentally well | Physical health | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | Mental health | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Young people engage in positive health behaviours | Health behaviours | | | ✓ |
| | Children and young people feel connected and respected in culture and community | Connection to community and support | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | Safe and supported | Children develop secure attachment patterns with their primary caregiver(s) | Attachment patterns | ✓ | | |
| Children and young people are supported by safe and healthy relationships | | Supportive relationships | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Children and young people are physically and emotionally safe | | Safe in the home | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | | Safe in the community | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Young people engage in safe behaviours | | Safe behaviours | | | ✓ | |
| | | Violence and antisocial behaviour | | | ✓ | |
| Children and young people's needs are met | Material basics | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Profile of Children and Young People | | | | | | |
| Policy strategy and responses | | | | | | |

The *Indicators of Wellbeing* model is available [here](#).

The *Indicators of Wellbeing* is designed to be a practical resource that provides a single, collated overview of the wellbeing of WA’s children and young people which will help to identify what is working and where changes in policies and practices are required.

It is recommended that the *Indicators of Wellbeing* be used by government and non-government organisations involved in policy-making and service delivery, advocacy groups and the general community.

Importantly, where children and young people are not faring well, this does not mean their pathway is set. There are many opportunities for intervention and support which enable children and young people to have positive wellbeing outcomes and it is the responsibility of government to ensure such opportunities are provided.

Development of the WMF – Indicators of Wellbeing

The *Indicators of Wellbeing* was developed by the Commissioner in consultation with CoLab through Telethon Kids Institute to support the Commissioner's role to promote and monitor the wellbeing of WA's children and young people.

To develop the model, CoLab/Telethon Kids Institute and the Commissioner's office identified short-term outcomes that have been shown to improve the wellbeing of WA's children and young people. The focus on short-term outcomes increases the relevance of the *Indicators of Wellbeing* for application in policy and practice by identifying critical intervention points across the life course of children and young people.

The indicators and measures were selected based on their capability to track progress towards the short-term outcomes and their suitability to support the development and progress of policy and practice.

A key input to the selection of indicators were the views of children and young people about what wellbeing means to them and what it means to have a good life. These views were gathered through the Commissioner's consultations. Therefore, the *Indicators of Wellbeing* includes measures that capture the lived experiences of children and young people which, in many cases, are not currently collected or not collected regularly.

This resource replaces previous editions of the [Wellbeing Monitoring Framework – State of Western Australia's Children and Young People](#). There are a number of changes from previous publications, including incorporating measures where data is not available or not available yet, and thereby emphasising the critical data gaps that exist.

Under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* the Commissioner must give priority to, and have special regard to, the interests and needs of Aboriginal children and young people and children and young people who are vulnerable or disadvantaged for any reason. With this in mind, the *Indicators of Wellbeing* considers the outcomes for all children and young people but also groups of children and young people who experience vulnerability or disadvantage, in particular Aboriginal children and young people.

Data collection and reporting

Data for the *Indicators of Wellbeing* have been collected from a wide variety of sources including publicly available resources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and NAPLAN data, and in some instances administrative data from government departments.

The Commissioner thanks the Director Generals and staff of the agencies who assisted in the development of this resource by providing data and feedback.

Wherever possible data have been disaggregated by gender, Aboriginal status and WA region (based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure) to provide a greater depth of analysis. However, this is not always possible.

There are a number of areas where data is not available or of sufficient quality. One of the goals of the *Indicators of Wellbeing* resource is to highlight gaps in available data and therefore encourage further data collection and reporting by agencies, non-government organisations or researchers.

Release of data for the Indicators of Wellbeing

The data for the *Indicators of Wellbeing* will be released in multiple stages. Release one is available now and encompasses data for the Learning and participating domain.

Available data for the Healthy and connected, and Safe and supported domains are expected to be published in 2019.

The published *Indicators of Wellbeing* data will be updated on a regular basis. The update schedule will be governed by the availability of the source data. For example, the following data in the Learning and participating domain will be updated at different times.

| Indicator/Dataset | Data source | Source data released |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Academic achievement (NAPLAN) | ACARA | Annually |
| School attendance | ACARA | Annually |
| Informal learning in the home | ABS | Triennially (every 3 years) |

While it is important to gather consistent data across years for effective trend analysis, it is also critical that the measures reported are relevant and valuable for policy development. Therefore, where additional data items or measures are identified that provide further information on an indicator, they will be assessed, and where appropriate included in the *Indicators of Wellbeing*.

The *Indicators of Wellbeing* is intended to be a flexible and responsive tool for the Commissioner, practitioners, policy-makers and the community.

Using and interpreting the data

To navigate through the *Indicators of Wellbeing* website do the following:

1. Select the age group

- This will provide an overview of the age group and a summary of the data that is available and any key issues for each published domain.

2. Select the domain by clicking on the left hand side menu (e.g. Learning and participating)

- This opens to show the indicators under that domain.

3. Select the relevant indicator by clicking on the left hand side menu.

- Each indicator has an overview section providing a summary of the indicator, related data and any specific areas of concern.

- Each indicator will have one or multiple measures. These may or may not hold data – depending on availability.
- Each indicator has a section on data related to children in care and children with disability.
- Each indicator holds a brief section of policy implications and links to resources for further information.

When reviewing and using the data in this resource please consider the following:

- The *Indicators of Wellbeing* does not include all of the customary measures that may represent a population-based perspective on wellbeing, such as immunisation rates or mortality rates. This was decided as the focus is to support the development and enhancement of policy and practice. While these other measures are important, they are adequately tracked and managed through other processes and policies.
- Data published were current when compiled and released. As outlined above data will be updated on a regular basis, however there will be a lag between the time data is publicly released by the data custodians (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics) and when it is compiled by the Commissioner's office.
- Data have been delineated by age groups of 0 to 5 years, 6 to 11 years and 12 to 17 years. These age groupings were developed taking into account a number of factors, in particular current knowledge about child development, the structure of the school years and the Commissioners' remit for children and young people under 18 years of age. However, some data sets do not collect or report information in these age groupings. In these instances the most appropriate data has been used and in some instances this includes data for young people aged 18 years and older.
- Details of the data sources are contained within the content for each indicator. This includes any qualifications regarding data quality, limitations or any issues related to the data.
- Where recent information is not available, older data is sometimes used. In these instances it has been decided that the data is useful to report on the wellbeing of WA's children and young people. If newer data becomes available, the measure will be updated.
- While all care has been taken to check the data in this resource, if errors are found they will be corrected and republished.

¹ Commissioner for Children and Young People 2016, *Our approach and priorities 2016-20*, Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, Perth.