

# Child Development Council

## Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People Forum Report

Prepared by the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia



# 1.0 Overview

The Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA) partnered with the Child Development Council (CDC) to consult young people aged 12-18 years to inform the development of the State Government's Outcomes Framework.

The Outcomes Framework will provide indicators and measures for tracking and reporting on how children and young people (0-18 years) are developing and progressing over time, with the aim to ensure all South Australian children and young people lead happy and healthy lives.

## 2.0 Background

### Demographics

Four forums were held across the metropolitan area and Adelaide Hills, and two in Whyalla. In total, 78 young people were consulted:

- Adelaide Hills – 6 young people
- South – 7 young people
- Adelaide - 16 young people
- North – 17 young people
- Whyalla – 32 young people.

The following "lived experience" categories were represented:

- Aboriginal
- Disability
- Education (preschool, primary, secondary, home)
- Education (college, TAFE, university)
- Education (alternative e.g. flexible learning options)
- Homeless/at risk of homelessness
- LGBTIQ
- Mainstream
- Mental health issues

- Migrant/refugee/new arrival/CALD
- Youth Justice
- Working

## Policy Context

The Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016 established the Child Development Council (CDC) as one of four oversight and advocacy entities for children and young people from birth to 18 years. The Council must develop and maintain an Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People and in developing the framework must consult with a range of specified stakeholders including children and young people.

## 3.0 Process

### The forum process

A series of six forums were hosted based on the five dimensions of the Outcomes Framework. The forums were generally up to 1 hour in duration (except for one of the Whyalla forums which was two hours) and provided the space for young people to share their views on what elements are necessary for them to have a good life. Young people explored this question within the context of the five dimensions of health, safety, wellbeing, education and citizenship.

Participants were asked to complete sentence stems which provided a catalyst for robust discussions and personal reflection and had the option to contribute individually, in pairs or as a group to ensure their comfort.

## 4.0 Overarching themes

### Themes

When the forum data was analysed, clear themes were identified across the five dimensions that provide insight into what young people feel are the essential elements to have a good life. These themes were:

1. Young people are respected and valued
2. Young people are listened to and feel heard
3. Young people can participate in the decisions that affect them
4. Young people have support from trusted parents, teachers and communities
5. Young people have a good home life.

## 5.0 The five dimensions

### The results

The following presents a thematic summary of the information provided by participants across the six forums and within the context of the five dimensions.

### Health

*Young South  
Australians are  
physically, mentally and  
emotionally healthy*

Young people reported that they are healthy when:

- they can access appropriate health and mental health services
- they are respected and valued
- they have a good home life
- they have access to healthy food
- they have support from trusted parents, teachers and communities
- they have the self-confidence and the ability to be themselves
- they experience good physical and mental health.

## Safety

*Young South  
Australians are safe and  
nurtured*

Young people reported that home, school, community is safe when:

- they are respected and accepted
- they have support from trusted parents, teachers and communities
- they have a good home life
- people listen and respond appropriately.

## Wellbeing

*Young South  
Australians are happy,  
inspired and engaged*

Participants reported that to have a good life young people need:

- respect and acceptance
- a good home life
- access to healthy food
- good friends
- good physical and mental health
- support from trusted parents, teachers and communities
- self-confidence and the ability to be themselves.

## Education

*Young South  
Australians are  
successful learners*

Participants said that school/learning is good when:

- they can participate in decision making
- they have respectful and productive relationships with teachers
- teachers listen to young people
- they feel supported and valued
- they have greater choices/pathways to pursue the things they are passionate about
- they enjoy what they are learning.

## Citizenship

*Young South  
Australians participate  
actively in society*

Young people reported that they feel valued and important because...

- they can participate in the decisions that affect them
- they feel listened to and heard
- they experience equal rights
- they are valued and cared for
- they are respected and connected to their communities.

## 6.0 Proposed measures

Participants identified a range of potential measures to track whether young people are leading happy and healthy lives.

### Health

*Young South  
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Participants reported that current surveys (such as Mission Australia's annual youth survey), could be utilised to gather evidence on how young people are faring regarding their health.

Further, with participants reporting feeling respected, valued and supported by trusted parents, teachers and communities as vital determinants of health, other mechanisms (perhaps in the form of wide ranging surveys, or engagement with youth services or youth focussed health services) will be needed to measure whether young people are able to access appropriate health and mental health services.

### Safety

*Young South  
Australians are safe and  
nurtured*

Alongside the measures already present in the Outcomes Framework, including crime and Child Abuse Report Line notifications, participants felt that they should be consulted to ascertain how safe they feel at home, at school or in their communities.

### Wellbeing

*Young South  
Australians are happy,  
inspired and engaged*

Within the forums, participants broadened out their responses to this dimension to include feeling respected, valued and supported in their homes, schools and communities. Participants suggested regular consultations with young people would be necessary to gather the evidence necessary to show levels of optimism and satisfaction with life alongside feelings of value and respect in young people's communities.

## Education

*Young South  
Australians are  
successful learners*

Participants felt that being engaged in education went beyond attendance and academic performance. "Engagement" for the participants of the forums centred on being respected, happy, supported and enjoying what you are learning. Young people participating in decision making surrounding what they are learning was also a strong theme throughout the forums.

Participants again felt that regular consultation, perhaps in the form of a survey, would provide valuable insight into young people's engagement in and experience of learning and schools and go some way into ascertaining whether young people are "successful learners".

## Citizenship

*Young South  
Australians participate  
actively in society*

Participants felt that the foundations for adulthood encompasses being listened to and being able to participate in decision making, feeling respected in their homes, schools and communities and feeling that they have equal rights and the other benefits of citizenship.

The Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA) partnered with the Child Development Council (CDC) to consult young people aged 12-18 years to inform the development of the State Government's Outcomes Framework.

### Number of forums

6

Whyalla x 2  
Golden Grove  
Adelaide Hills  
St Marys  
Adelaide city

### Number of participants

78

Young people  
consulted

### Key themes

Clear themes were identified across the five dimensions that provide an insight into what young people feel are the essential elements to have a good life. The themes were:

Young people are respected and valued

Young people are listened to and feel heard

Young people can participate in the  
decisions that affect them

Young people have a good home life

Young people have support from trusted parents, teachers and communities

### Measures

Participants identified potential measures (to compliment already identified sources of data) to track whether young people are leading happy and healthy lives.

Health	Safety	Wellbeing	Education	Citizenship
Undertake surveys and consultations to measure whether young people have access to appropriate health & mental health services.	Regular consultations with young people to measure how safe they feel at home, at school and in their communities.	A regular survey or other mechanism to identify and chart levels of optimism, satisfaction, respect and value amongst young people.	Regular consultation to provide insight into engagement in education that goes beyond school attendance and academic performance.	Review how young people are able to participate in decision making processes and regular consultations to ascertain feelings of value, respect and community connectedness.