



South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People

Every young South Australian counts

Acknowledgement

This framework was developed in consultation with multiple stakeholders across South Australia. The Child Development Council thanks the children and young people who contributed their views about what makes a good life via an online survey, focus groups, forums, postcards and a Charter Summit, and acknowledges the parents, families and carers and all other stakeholders for their collaboration and input.

Acknowledgement of the Aboriginal peoples of South Australia

The Council acknowledges the diverse Aboriginal peoples of South Australia and respects their cultural and heritage beliefs and their elders past, present and emerging. This framework is intended to guide services provided by state and local governments on the traditional lands of Aboriginal peoples and the Council acknowledges and respects their spiritual relationships with country.

Language and definitions

The term 'children and young people' is inclusive of all babies, children and young people from birth up to the age of 18 years.

The term 'Aboriginal' is used respectfully to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, adults, families and communities.

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Author: Child Development Council. South Australia.
Title: South Australia's Outcome Framework for Children and Young People
Edition: 2019

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1 Overview

This Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People supports the development and wellbeing of South Australians from birth to 18 years. It adopts a long-term focus to track and improve the outcomes of all children and young people.

A collective and sustained effort will enable children and young people in South Australia to start well, grow strong and experience a good life, now and in the future.

The framework:

- sets out in a charter, the conditions for all children and young people to live a good life in accordance with their statutory, common law and international human rights
- identifies the key dimensions of 'a good life' and the agreed outcomes for all children and young people in South Australia
- provides a systematic mechanism to track, monitor and report on agreed outcomes with indicators
- provides evidence of inequalities for specific communities of children and young people to identify where improvements are needed
- identifies emerging trends, and current and potential challenges
- provides evidence for decision-making for policy and other interventions to improve the lives of all children and young people
- requires cooperation and collaboration of state and local government authorities.

The development of this framework was guided by the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016 (Act)* and the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Regulations 2017 (Regulations)*.

2 Structure

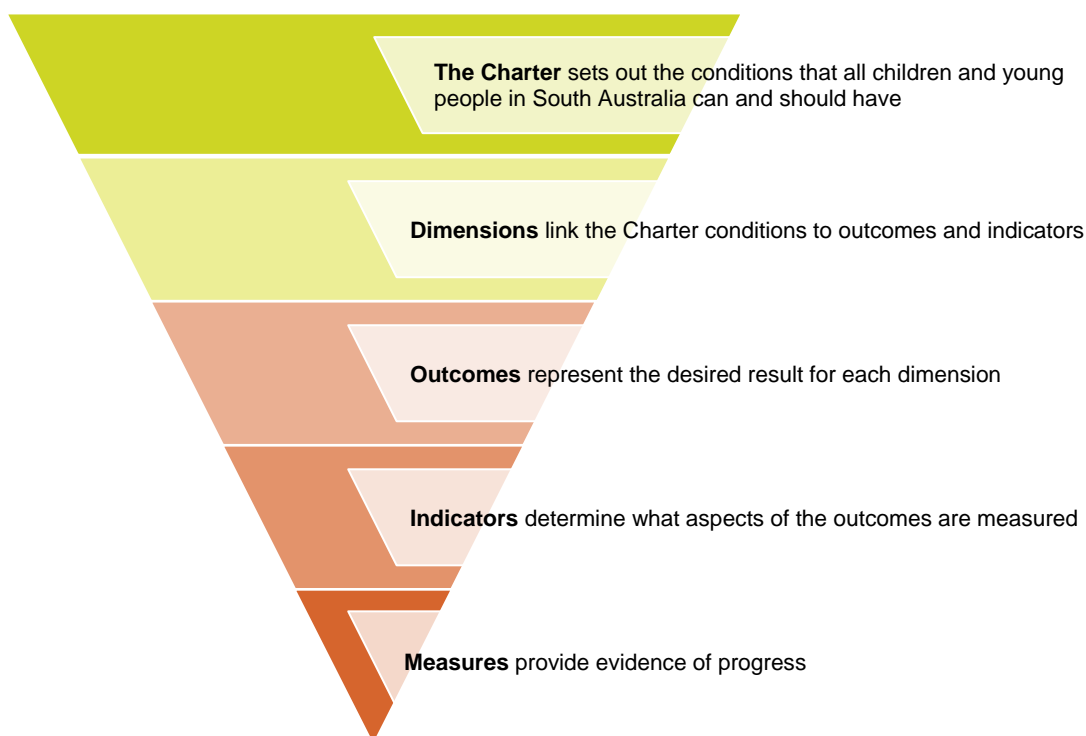


Figure 1 Structure of the framework

To progress the vision of South Australia being a state where the conditions exist for all children and young people to thrive, the framework is organised around a Charter for Children and Young People and five key life dimensions.

For each dimension there is a high-level outcome with associated indicators. Indicators reinforce outcomes and are interconnected. For example, having safe and stable housing is a key foundation for all five outcomes.

For each indicator there is a set of measures that allows progress to be tracked and provides a holistic view of the wellbeing and development of all children and young people.

The outcomes-based approach focuses on actual results and progress achieved, rather than systems and programs.

3 Charter

The Charter reflects a commitment to work from a foundation of state, national and international children's rights including the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) and other human rights instruments.

The statements in the Charter represent the voices of children and young people, and reflect what is important to them – having a good home life, having support from trusted adults, being listened to, participating in decisions that affect them, opportunity for a quality education, employment and most importantly, being respected and valued.

The Charter sets out the conditions that all children and young people can, and should, have. These conditions – the twenty Charter statements – apply to every child and young person in South Australia without discrimination.

Charter conditions

The conditions call on all South Australians to play an active role in improving the outcomes of children and young people, including children and young people themselves, parents, families and other caregivers, local governments, state government, the private sector, non-government organisations, Aboriginal communities, religious and cultural leaders, the media, and all who work with children and young people.

Charter for Children and Young People

South Australia – where all children and young people grow strong and lead happy, healthy lives

Children and young people have a good start in life, beginning before birth	Children and young people live in safe and stable housing	Children and young people have opportunities to play, express themselves creatively and enjoy free time	Children and young people have access to a quality education	Children and young people are supported to know, respect and celebrate their abilities, beliefs, cultures, languages and communities
Children and young people live in healthy families and communities, free from poverty and discrimination	Children and young people live without violence, abuse or exploitation	Children and young people are connected to supportive and trusted adults and networks	Children and young people are supported to achieve their learning potential	Children and young people are portrayed positively
Children and young people are empowered to make choices that benefit their health and happiness	Children and young people have safe and supported digital access	Children and young people have opportunities to establish and maintain friendships	Children and young people have pathways to economic participation and independent living	Children and young people have opportunities to contribute to their communities
Children and young people experience physical and mental wellbeing, and have access to quality health care and support	Children and young people make safe decisions about alcohol, drugs and relationships	Children and young people have a say in matters that affect them directly	Children and young people are supported to successfully transition through education into employment	Children and young people have opportunities to influence matters of current and future significance

4 Dimensions, outcomes and indicators

A set of five interrelated dimensions – health, safety, wellbeing, education and citizenship – provide the foundation for realising the Charter conditions.

Dimensions provide a 'line of sight', linking the Charter conditions to the outcomes and indicators.

The framework identifies five key outcomes as measurable descriptions of success at the population level:

1. Young South Australians are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy
2. Young South Australians are safe and nurtured
3. Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged
4. Young South Australians are successful learners
5. Young South Australians participate actively in society.

The framework provides a structured approach to determine how children and young people fare in each dimension, by providing the evidence that shows if improved outcomes are equally shared by all.

Outcomes are supported by 18 indicators that create an overall picture of development and wellbeing, and provide a holistic view of the impact of current policies and programs.

Indicators determine what is measured. They define the optimal state or direction of change needed to achieve the stated outcomes.

Each indicator in the framework has been evaluated for inclusion on the basis of a range of criteria, including practicality, transferability and the availability of data.

Dimension 1: Health	Outcome Young South Australians are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy	Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babies are born healthy • Children have a healthy early life • Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours • Children and young people are thriving
Dimension 2: Safety	Outcome Young South Australians are safe and nurtured	Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people live in safe housing • Children and young people are safe from preventable injury • Children and young people are safe from abuse and neglect • Children and young people are safe from crime
Dimension 3: Wellbeing	Outcome Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged	Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have early experiences that enhance their development • Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture • Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities • Children and young people are leading satisfied lives
Dimension 4: Education	Outcome Young South Australians are successful learners	Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment • Children and young people's experience of learning is positive • Children and young people are engaged in school, further education, training or work
Dimension 5: Citizenship	Outcome Young South Australians participate actively in society	Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people develop skills for an independent life • Children and young people participate in decisions that affect them directly and the wider society • Children and young people are engaged in community activities

5 Measures to provide the evidence

A set of measures provides objective and standardised evidence of progress, and show where action is needed to improve outcomes. The set is dynamic and responsive to emerging issues and priorities.

Each measure is evaluated for inclusion on the basis of a range of criteria, including practicality, transferability, and the availability of data.

Wherever possible, a benchmark is set for each measure, and national and international comparisons are provided.

Data are disaggregated for identified cohorts:

- male and female
- Aboriginal children and young people
- children and young people with disability
- children and young people living in out-of-home care
- metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australian populations
- socioeconomic status.

The *Outcomes Framework Data and Technical Report* is the basis for reporting the evidence. The data and technical report includes the following information for each measure:

- rationale for inclusion
- measure details (including age range, and reporting time frame)
- definition of the data calculation (numerator and denominator) and relative frequency (rate, proportion and percentage)
- data sources (with embedded links)
- data availability (baseline year, frequency, age and next likely release date)
- data breakdown (disaggregated into sub-categories)
- benchmarking (potential comparability with state, national or international data)
- further information (where relevant).

6 Monitoring progress

The framework connects dimensions, outcomes, indicators and measures as part of an integrated measurement and monitoring system. It provides a transparent approach to monitor collective efforts to safeguard the trajectories of all children and young people in South Australia.

The *Outcomes Framework Data and Technical Report* on the Council's website captures the latest available data from a variety of state, national and international sources to track progress.

Data sources include the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and accredited non-government surveys and reports.

Data are analysed regularly using a multi-dimensional approach.

Monitoring inequalities

The framework adopts a universal approach by focusing on all children and young people in South Australia and provides a mechanism for monitoring and reporting inequalities between population groups.

To promote greater equality of outcomes for all children and young people and to identify and reduce inequalities, particular attention is given to groups at risk of marginalisation and/or disadvantage.

Aboriginal children and young people

The strong kinship connections of Aboriginal children and young people to family, land and culture, that form the foundation for individual wellbeing, are acknowledged. Efforts to 'close the gap' and improve the outcomes of all Aboriginal children and young people will be monitored and reported.

7 Reporting the outcomes

Progress will be reported annually and periodically as needed.

Annual reporting

How are they faring? A Report Card for South Australia, will report population-level outcomes for children and young people in the five key dimensions. It will identify excellence, inequality and priority areas for whole-of-state effort.

Periodic reporting will include policy briefs and snapshots

Policy briefs will provide evidenced-based summaries of emerging issues from the data collection and analysis. Each brief will succinctly summarise an issue, provide policy options and recommendation(s) to address the issue. Policy briefs will comprise both advocacy and objective briefs.

Snapshots will visually portray the best available evidence for specified measures. Each snapshot will provide data breakdowns and state, national or international benchmarking. Regularly updated snapshots will be published on the Council's website.

Every young South Australian counts

Young South Australians ...

... are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy

Health Indicator 1

Babies are born healthy

Measures

- Proportion of low birthweight babies as a proportion of all live births
- Proportion of pregnant mothers smoking in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy
- Proportion of mothers under 20 years when giving birth
- Proportion of women attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy

Health Indicator 2

Children have a healthy early life

Measures

- Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births
- Proportion of children fully immunised at one, two and five years
- Proportion of children meeting developmental milestones at two and four years

Health Indicator 3

Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours

Measures

- Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese
- Proportion of young people smoking tobacco
- Proportion of young people consuming alcohol
- Proportion of young people with potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour
- Proportion of young people taking illicit drugs

Health Indicator 4

Children and young people are thriving

Measures

- Proportion of children and young people with access to healthy food
- Number of children and young people with tooth decay
- Proportion of children and young people considering themselves to be in good or excellent health
- Proportion of children and young people estimated to have an emotional, mental health or behavioural problem
- Proportion of 12 year olds considering themselves to be in good or excellent health
- Proportion of 16 year olds considering themselves to be in good or excellent health

... are safe and nurtured

Safety Indicator 1

Children and young people live in safe housing

Measures

- Proportion of children and young people feeling concerned about family conflict
- Proportion of children and young people living in households with financial hardship
- Number of children and young people experiencing homelessness

Safety Indicator 2

Children and young people are safe from preventable injury

Measures

- Number of children and young people presenting to emergency departments with potentially preventable hospitalisations
- Number of deaths of children and young people being attributed to preventable/unintentional injury
- Number of police cautions or fines issued for failing to safely restrain passengers under 16 years
- Number of children and young people 5-13 years attending a swimming safety program

Safety Indicator 3

Children and young people are safe from abuse and neglect

Measures

- Number of children and young people being admitted to out-of-home care
- Proportion of children twelve months old or under being notified to the child protection system
- Proportion of children five years being notified to the child protection system

Safety Indicator 4

Children and young people are safe from crime

Measures

- Proportion of children and young people feeling unsafe in their local area at night
- Number of children and young people who are victims of offences reported to police
- Number of arrests involving young people 10-17 years

... are happy, inspired and engaged

Wellbeing Indicator 1

Children have early experiences that enhance their development

Measures

- Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services
- Proportion and number of three-year-old Aboriginal children enrolled in a quality pre-school program
- Proportion of children enrolled in a quality pre-school program in the year before attending fulltime school

Wellbeing Indicator 2

Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture

Measures

- Proportion of children and young people participating in cultural activities
- Proportion of children and young people attending cultural venues and events
- Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their home
- Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their school
- Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their community
- Proportion of children and young people with one or more friends, in whom they can confide

Wellbeing Indicator 3

Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities

Measures

- Proportion of children and young people participating in organised activities outside of school hours
- Proportion of children and young people participating in sport or recreational physical activities

Wellbeing Indicator 4

Children and young people are leading satisfied lives

Measures

- Proportion of children and young people feeling optimistic about life
- Proportion of children and young people reporting a medium to high level of satisfaction with life
- Rate of suicide for children and young people

... are successful learners

Education Indicator 1

Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment

Measures

- Proportion of children developmentally vulnerable in one or more of five domains under the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) when they enter school
- Number of children receiving early childhood early intervention supports through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or with an approved NDIS plan before entering school

Education Indicator 2

Children and young people's experience of learning is positive

Measures

- Proportion of Year 1 students reading at an age-appropriate level or better
- Proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above national minimum standard in reading, writing or numeracy
- Proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above national minimum standard in reading, writing or numeracy
- Proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above national minimum standard in reading, writing or numeracy

Education Indicator 3

Children and young people are engaged in school, further education, training or work

Measures

- Proportion of young people fully engaged in school, work or further education and training
- Proportion of young people with disability, partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education and training
- Rate of attendance for students enrolled in school
- Proportion of young people completing a senior secondary certificate of education qualification or equivalent by 19 years

... participate actively in society

Citizenship Indicator 1

Children and young people develop skills for an independent life

Measures

- Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are literate
- Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are numerate
- Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate
- Proportion of young people 16-19 years with a driver's licence
- Proportion of young people 15-19 years satisfied with their level of independence
- Average hours of paid employment for young people 15-19 years
- Proportion of young people 15-19 years not currently living with their parents
- Proportion of Year 10 students achieving at or above proficient standard in the Australian curriculum civics and citizenship assessment

Citizenship Indicator 2

Children and young people participate in decisions that affect them directly and the wider society

Measures

- Proportion of children and young people feeling able to have a say on important issues
- Proportion of young people 18 years enrolled to vote

Citizenship Indicator 3

Children and young people are engaged in community activities

Measures

- Proportion of children and young people participating in volunteering
- Proportion of children and young people participating in community support groups

Appendix 1 – Indicators and indicative measures

HEALTH – Young South Australians are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy

Babies are born healthy

- Proportion of low birthweight babies as a proportion of all live births¹
- Proportion of pregnant mothers smoking in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy
- Proportion of mothers under 20 years when giving birth²
- Proportion of women attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy.

Children have a healthy early life

- Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births³
- Proportion of children fully immunised at one, two and five years
- Proportion of children meeting developmental milestones at two and four years.

Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours

- Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese
- Proportion of young people smoking tobacco
- Proportion of young people consuming alcohol
- Proportion of young people with potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour
- Proportion of young people taking illicit drugs.

¹ The number of live births, of babies weighing less than 2,500 grams, as a proportion of the total number of live births, including premature and full term births.

² This is a measure of infant and adolescent health.

³ The number of infant deaths under one year of age, per 1,000 live births.

Children and young people are thriving

- Proportion of children and young people with access to healthy food
- Number of children and young people with tooth decay
- Proportion of children and young people considering themselves to be in good or excellent health⁴
- Proportion of children and young people estimated to have an emotional, mental health or behavioural problem
- Proportion of 12 year olds considering themselves to be in good or excellent health⁵
- Proportion of 16 year olds considering themselves to be in good or excellent health.⁶

⁴ Self-reported by 9-15 year olds in the Wellbeing & Engagement Collection. Information is available for 4-17 year olds in the South Australian Population Health Survey but is reported by an adult on behalf of the child/young person.

⁵ Age 12 is chosen as a specific important life stage.

⁶ Age 16 is chosen as a specific important life stage.

SAFETY – Young South Australians are safe and nurtured

Children and young people live in safe housing

- Proportion of children and young people feeling concerned about family conflict
- Proportion of children and young people living in households with financial hardship⁷
- Number of children and young people experiencing homelessness.⁸

Children and young people are safe from preventable injury

- Number of children and young people presenting to emergency departments with potentially preventable hospitalisations⁹
- Number of deaths of children and young people being attributed to preventable/unintentional injury
- Number of police cautions or fines issued for failing to safely restrain passengers under 16 years
- Number of children and young people 5-13 years attending a swimming safety program.¹⁰

Children and young people are safe from abuse and neglect

- Number of children and young people being admitted to out-of-home care
- Proportion of children twelve months old or under being notified to the child protection system¹¹
- Proportion of children five years being notified to the child protection system.¹²

Children and young people are safe from crime

- Proportion of children and young people feeling unsafe in their local area at night
- Number of children and young people who are victims of offences reported to police¹³
- Number of arrests involving young people 10-17 years.

⁷ Households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.

⁸ Homelessness numbers are estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

⁹ Both preventable hospitalisations and preventable injuries are included.

¹⁰ VacsWim age range includes 5-13 years. Other preventable injury programs have also been considered eg BurnSafe, bike safety, life education and road safety programs.

¹¹ A notification is recorded in the system when a report is made to the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL).

¹² A notification is recorded in the system when a report is made to the CARL.

¹³ This measure includes against-the-person offences committed against children and young people, but excludes sexual offences because of the time lags in the reporting of sexual offences.

WELLBEING - Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged

Children have early experiences that enhance their development

- Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services
- Proportion and number of three-year-old Aboriginal children enrolled in a quality pre-school program¹⁴
- Proportion of children enrolled in a quality pre-school program in the year before attending fulltime school.

Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture

- Proportion of children and young people participating in cultural activities
- Proportion of children and young people attending cultural venues and events¹⁵
- Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their home
- Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their school
- Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their community
- Proportion of children and young people with one or more friends, in whom they can confide.

Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities

- Proportion of children and young people participating in organised activities outside of school hours¹⁶
- Proportion of children and young people participating in sport or recreational physical activities.

Children and young people are leading satisfied lives

- Proportion of children and young people feeling optimistic about life
- Proportion of children and young people reporting a medium to high level of satisfaction with life
- Rate of suicide for children and young people.

¹⁴ The Department for Education funds early access to preschool for three year old Aboriginal children.

¹⁵ Cultural activities include going to a public library, art gallery, museum, or a performing arts event.

¹⁶ Activities include sports, music, arts and craft.

EDUCATION – Young South Australians are successful learners

Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment

- Proportion of children developmentally vulnerable in one or more of five domains under the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) when they enter school¹⁷
- Number of children receiving early childhood early intervention supports through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or with an approved NDIS plan before entering school.

Children and young people's experience of learning is positive

- Proportion of Year 1 students reading at an age-appropriate level or better
- Proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above national minimum standard in reading, writing or numeracy
- Proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above national minimum standard in reading, writing or numeracy
- Proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above national minimum standard in reading, writing or numeracy.

Children and young people are engaged in school, further education, training or work

- Proportion of young people fully engaged in school, work or further education and training¹⁸
- Proportion of young people with disability, partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education and training
- Rate of attendance for students enrolled in school
- Proportion of young people completing a senior secondary certificate of education qualification or equivalent by 19 years.

¹⁷ The five domains of the AEDC are: social competence; emotional maturity; physical health and wellbeing; language and cognitive skills; and communication and general knowledge. Developmentally vulnerable refers to the proportion of children scoring in the lowest 10 per cent.

¹⁸ Young people employed full-time and/or in full-time study or working part-time and studying part-time.

CITIZENSHIP – Young South Australians participate actively in society

Children and young people develop skills for an independent life

- Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are literate
- Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are numerate
- Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate¹⁹
- Proportion of young people 16-19 years with a driver's licence
- Proportion of young people 15-19 years satisfied with their level of independence
- Average hours of paid employment for young people 15-19 years
- Proportion of young people 15-19 years not currently living with their parents
- Proportion of Year 10 students achieving at or above proficient standard in the Australian curriculum civics and citizenship assessment.²⁰

Children and young people participate in decisions that affect them directly and the wider society

- Proportion of children and young people feeling able to have a say on important issues
- Proportion of young people 18 years enrolled to vote.

Children and young people are engaged in community activities

- Proportion of children and young people participating in volunteering
- Proportion of children and young people participating in community support groups.²¹

¹⁹ Measured as part of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey.

²⁰ National Assessment Program Sample Assessment – civics and citizenship.

²¹ 'Community support groups' include service clubs, welfare organisations, education and training, parenting/children/young people, health promotion and support, emergency services, international aid and development, or other community support group activities.

Appendix 2 – Assessment criteria for indicators and measures

Dimension: [Health]									
Indicator [-]: [Title here]									
Measures		[1.1	[1.2	[1.3	[1.4	[1.5	[1.6	[1.7	[1.8
Assessment criteria	Policy relevant		[✓]						
	Practical/Pragmatic	Implementable							
		Scalable							
		Affordable							
		Low burden							
	Transferability	Culture							
		Language							
		Context							
	Reliable								
	Valid								
	Sensitive to change								
	Child friendly								
	Balanced to vulnerabilities and capabilities								
	Modifiable by policy and/or interventions								
	Presentable/actionable								
	Datasets	Local							
		Recurring							
		Global							

