



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by PETER CAIN MLA:

Ref: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

In relation to: Wellbeing Framework

1. Regarding the wellbeing framework:
 - a. How many wellbeing impact assessments have been completed to date, and what programs or projects were they for?
 - b. Have you begun collecting and analysing data on specific demographic groups in Canberra, as mentioned on p. 23 of the CMTEDD Annual Report 2020-21, vol. 1?
 - c. There appear to be a number of measurements used for the indicators in the wellbeing framework where the most recent ABS data is from 2017-18 (Financial position, net worth, income levels). What consideration has been given to alternative data sets for these indicators that could be collected and used in future?
 - i. How does the older data affect policy decision making, particularly following the effects of Covid on some households?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- a. Wellbeing Impact Assessments (WIAs) have been completed for proposals as part of both Budget and Cabinet processes during 2021-22 across a very broad range of policy areas and Wellbeing Framework domains. WIAs were introduced as part of business case development for the 2021-22 Budget. A small number of WIAs were completed to accompany Cabinet Submissions in late 2021 prior to legislative changes requiring WIAs to be completed for all Cabinet Submissions, discussion papers and Assembly Business Papers from 1 January 2022. To date, WIAs have been completed for 44 Cabinet Submissions.

All Cabinet items are required to have Wellbeing Impact Assessments unless an exemption has been granted. Items that may be exempted include:

- i. Items for noting and/or administrative purposes that have no policy or financial impact;
 - ii. Items for agreement where the proposal is minor or technical and is assessed as having no material impact on wellbeing.
- b. The Wellbeing Dashboard (April 2021) commenced the process of providing data in relation to specific groups in the community.

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, in collaboration with the Community Services Directorate, is collecting and analysing data to support a new dashboard to inform the community on the wellbeing of Canberra's children and young people. This dashboard is being structured around the domains of the Wellbeing Framework and will bring together local and national data to help our community, including government and community partners, understand the wellbeing of children and young people in Canberra.

Work to deliver data and insights on the wellbeing of other specific groups identified in the Wellbeing Framework (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, gender, people with disability, carers, older Canberrans, LGBTIQ+ people, and culturally and linguistically diverse people) remains an ongoing focus.

- c. A range of data and information inform the wellbeing aspects of policy decision making. The Wellbeing Dashboard is one of those. A key purpose of the dashboard is to measure our wellbeing progress over time, but of course the period of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought a focus to shorter-term movements in outcomes. That is why data and other information sources beyond the dashboard inform policy development. It is also the case that a high-level dashboard of measures will not specifically cover all aspects of policy development, so other sources are necessary in these cases. It is expected that the Wellbeing Dashboard will be updated later in 2022 and matters such as data availability will be reviewed as part of that process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender Equality

Signature: 

Date: 25.3.22

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA