



THE AUSTRALIA WE WANT

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BUILDING FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

Acknowledgements

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Overview from the Rev Tim Costello, Chair CCA

Imagine an Australia where incarceration rates are falling, where the suicide rate is less than the road toll, where levels of violence against women and children have been significantly reduced? Imagine an Australia where your postcode or cultural identity does not define your chance of getting an education or a job or living a long life?

Imagine an Australia where creativity drives real innovation and achievement, not just in our arts, but also in our schools and local communities? Imagine a humane and sustainable Australia, where people are more connected and engaged in the communities they live and work in, and where this involvement is reflected in the way we form policies and laws? Imagine a generous and kind Australia where we take pride in supporting the less fortunate in our own communities, in our region and beyond? Imagine the Australia we want?

Many discussions about Australia's future are focused on our economy, not our lives, our relationships or the country we want to live in. We are much more than passengers in an economy.

When CCA brought together a diverse group of leaders and thinkers at the National Portrait Gallery we dared to imagine the Australia we want, and to talk about the measures that mattered most to us. The ABC AM Radio program reporting on the event described it as a "council of war - charities and not-for-profits seeking to claim their place in national policy making."

In fact, this report is just a first step. We want many more people to be involved in the journey, to join CCA in a movement to own our futures and build our society on the values we want, **the Australia we want...**



Introduction

What kind
of Australia
do we want
to live in
and what is
our role in
achieving it?

What kind of Australia do we want to live in and what is our role in achieving it?

The Community Council for Australia (CCA) is framing new policy platforms for the future of the Australian charities and not-for-profit sector, and one of the foundations is the answer to this question.

The first major discussion of this issue was a CCA strategic planning session with Board Directors in February 2015. This meeting agreed to bring together key sector leaders to discuss and develop an outline of the goals and measures that reflect the kind of Australia we want to live in.

Sixty influential sector leaders, including members of the Pro Bono Australia Impact 25, CCA members and partners, met at the National Portrait Gallery to discuss the Australia we want (please see Appendix 1 - listing of participants). The event attracted significant media attention and the then Assistant Treasurer Josh Frydenberg attended the event.

This report is a comprehensive assessment of an emerging national agenda for change. It is the first set of findings, the benchmark on how Australia is performing against measures indicating the kind of Australia leaders in the sector would like to live in. It tells us the extent to which the values and goals that the sector has prioritised are or are not being realised across Australia. The findings will surprise many.

This first AusWeWant report is about all of us owning our future, creating the communities we want to live and work in. We welcome feedback and look forward to engaging further with our members, partners, the broader sector, business, governments and others interested in helping shape this important agenda.

Executive summary

The Community Council for Australia is committed to achieving positive changes for Australia through strengthening the role and effectiveness of charities and not-for-profit organisations.

Most debates about Australia's future have been limited by a seemingly myopic fixation on the type of economy to be achieved. Australians are more than individual tax paying economic units. Our productivity, innovation, skills and achievements are actually grounded in flourishing communities within our schools, workplaces, families and local neighbourhoods.

In 2015, a group of 60 leaders from across the charities and not-for-profit sector were asked to consider and discuss ways in which they might describe the Australia we want. Through this process a listing of key values was identified. The leaders then developed measures that would show whether the values they had prioritised were being achieved. This report presents the first comprehensive review of Australia's performance against these agreed values based measures. It is the start of a journey to a better Australia, a journey we need to imagine, plan for, enact and monitor. It is about owning the Australia we want.



Summary of findings

A brief discussion

The findings in this report describe progress against key indicators that reflect the kind of Australia we want.

Australia is currently a place where our incarceration rates are three times that of Ireland and rising, our suicide rates are higher than our road toll, and inequality is growing. We volunteer less and give less as a percentage of our income than we did five years ago. We are slipping down the international corruption scale just as we are slipping down the scale of international generosity. These are not good indicators.

We are above average compared to other OECD countries in equality of access to employment, education levels, and business confidence, but even in these areas there is scope for considerable improvements.

Each jurisdiction has been ranked in order of their performance against the key indicators:

1. **Australian Capital Territory (ACT)** ranks top of the jurisdictions - it is where income levels are above average, but not at the cost of greater inequality. The ACT is one of the safest jurisdictions as well as being one of the most generous. Unfortunately, the ACT is let down by the high cost of housing, especially for those on lower incomes.
2. **Tasmania (TAS)** scored quite highly in several key areas making it the second best performing jurisdiction. On measures like cost of housing, fair distribution of income and perceptions of safety, it is one of the leading jurisdictions. However, educational attainment is the lowest in Australia with over a third of Tasmanians aged 15 to 74 not having completed secondary education.
3. **Victoria (VIC)** is ranked relatively highly mainly because it does very well in two key areas – incarceration rates are not increasing and remain well below most other jurisdictions, and Victorians are relatively generous in giving to others. Unfortunately, suicide rates have increased by over 20% in Victoria and the gap between male and female participation in the workforce is the largest in Australia.
4. **South Australia (SA)** is a mid-ranking jurisdiction in many areas. Incarceration rates are above the national average and levels of giving are relatively low, but the distribution of income is fairer than most other jurisdictions and female to male workforce participation ratios are better than most others.
5. **New South Wales (NSW)** is the most generous in terms of giving, but is also one of the two states where inequality in income distribution is the highest in Australia. It is also a poor performer in areas like incarceration rates and levels of volunteering which have declined significantly.
6. **Queensland (QLD)** has high levels of incarceration, the highest housing costs in Australia for the lowest quintile of income earners, and low levels of both volunteering and giving, making it one of the poorer ranking states. Queensland achieved a positive rating for the female to male workforce participation ratio and delivered a reduction in CO2 emissions.
7. **Northern Territory (NT)** has a very high incarceration rate – double any other jurisdiction and more than four times the national average. Suicide rates and housing costs are high,

while levels of giving and volunteering are very low making the Northern Territory the second lowest ranking jurisdiction in Australia. This is despite scoring positively on the ratio of female to male participation in the workforce and equality of income distribution.

8. **Western Australia** (WA) has the highest suicide rates in Australia, female participation in the workforce is the second lowest, incarceration rates are 50% higher than the national average, and CO2 emissions are rising more than any other jurisdiction. Western Australians are also not particularly generous despite a few notable exceptions - the levels of giving are the second lowest in Australia. All these negatives make Western Australia the lowest ranking jurisdiction.

There are quite a number of findings across the report that may come as a surprise to some readers, but will confirm the experiences of others.

Incarceration rates in the Northern Territory are not only four times higher than the national average, but even higher than the global outlier in incarceration rates, the United States. There are close to 10,000 un-sentenced prisoners in custody with many waiting months to know their sentence. Around one third of our prisoners have disabilities and chronic health conditions, and over 80% have not completed secondary schooling. Less than 25% of our prison population have committed offences involving violence.

On average around eight people will die by suicide each day in Australia and the numbers are increasing. The rate of suicide amongst Indigenous Australians is four times that of non-Indigenous Australians.

One in five Australians aged 15-74 did not complete secondary education – a worrying statistic when the repercussions of poor educational attainment are so negative for so many.

Australia is a society where the experiences of women are significantly different to the experiences of men. Australian men feel safer (76%) than the OECD average, but Australian women feel less safe (48%). Women also have more difficulty participating in the workforce and experience a gender pay gap of over 17%.

As noted in the findings relating to creativity, our arts data is currently woefully inadequate. In many international countries, artistic endeavour is valued as highly as sporting achievements, and investment in the arts is seen as fundamental to securing a compassionate and innovative society. It is acknowledged that the arts expand our perception beyond our experience, and our emotions beyond what we can imagine. Unfortunately, arts do not appear to be highly valued in Australia.

Most of the findings of this report are summarised in a series of dashboards outlining national and jurisdictional findings using a simple three-point scale by assigning a positive (+1), neutral (0), or negative (-1) result against each relevant indicator. While these dashboards make the information easily accessible, it is hoped readers will also take the time to consider the more detailed description of how each value was measured and how each finding was arrived at.

Perhaps most importantly, this report should be read as the first of many. It has established a methodology, some benchmarks and a way of presenting data about Australia that has not been done before. What will be most interesting is not just the results in this report, but the trends that emerge when this same template is applied to a new set of data in the second AusWeWant report which CCA has committed to producing within the next two years.

The findings in this report matter. What we do to change our performance as a country is up to us. The good thing about all these findings is that they reflect outcomes we can change, if we have the will to do so.

AusWeWant national dashboard

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)



AUST



NSW



VIC



QLD



SA



WA



TAS



NT



ACT

just, fair, safe

incarceration rates	-1	-1	+1	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	+1
distribution of income	-1	-1	0	0	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1
feeling safe – wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0	+1	0	+1

inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

suicide rates	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	+1
educational attainment	+1	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	+1
transparency	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
employment access	+1	0	-1	+1	+1	-1	+1	0	+1
housing access	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	+1	-1	-1

creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

environmental sustainability	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1
consumer confidence	-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
business confidence	+1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

generous, kind, compassionate

levels of individual giving	0	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	+1
volunteering	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0
international development assistance	-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

TOTAL SCORE	-3	-1	+1	-2	-1	-7	+4	-3	+7
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Australia

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)

just, fair, safe

incarceration rates	-1	High imprisonment rate and increasing
distribution of income	-1	Inequality increasing and above the OECD average
feeling safe – wellbeing	0	Perceptions of safety are increasing but below the OECD average

inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

suicide rates	-1	High rate of suicide and increasing
educational attainment	+1	The rate of educational attainment is improving and above the OECD average
transparency	0	Declining levels of transparency but above the OECD average
employment access	+1	Female participation increasing and well above the OECD average
housing access	0	Overall housing costs close to OECD average but much higher for lowest quintile

creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

environmental sustainability	-1	CO2 emissions are increasing and above the OECD average
consumer confidence	-1	Consumer confidence below the OECD average and the index benchmark
business confidence	+1	Business confidence higher than the OECD average and above the benchmark

generous, kind, compassionate

levels of individual giving	0	Levels of giving slowly increasing, but still not back to pre GFC highs
volunteering	0	Volunteering declined but still above the OECD average
international development assistance	-1	Development assistance ratio decreasing and well below the OECD average

TOTAL SCORE

-3



Australian Capital Territory

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)

Australian Capital Territory (ACT) ranks top of the jurisdictions - it is where income levels are above average, but not at the cost of greater inequality. The ACT is one of the safest jurisdictions as well as being one of the most generous. Unfortunately, the ACT is let down by the high cost of housing, especially for those on lower incomes.

just, fair, safe

incarceration rates	+1	Stabilising rate of imprisonment well below the national average
distribution of income	+1	Inequality reducing and below the national average
feeling safe – wellbeing	+1	Perceptions of feeling safe increasing and higher than the national average

inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

suicide rates	+1	Stabilising suicide rate below the national average
educational attainment	+1	Increasing educational attainment significantly above the national average
transparency	N/A	
employment access	+1	Female participation increasing and higher than the national average
housing access	-1	Housing costs above the national average for the lowest quintile

creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

environmental sustainability	+1	CO2 emissions decreasing
consumer confidence	N/A	
business confidence	N/A	

generous, kind, compassionate

levels of individual giving	+1	Levels of giving above the national average
volunteering	0	Volunteering declined but above the national average
international development assistance	N/A	
TOTAL SCORE	+7	



Tasmania

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)

Tasmania (TAS) scored quite highly in several key areas making it the second best performing jurisdiction. On measures like cost of housing, fair distribution of income and perceptions of safety, it is one of the leading jurisdictions. However, educational attainment is the lowest in Australia with over a third of Tasmanians aged 15 to 74 not having completed secondary education.

just, fair, safe

incarceration rates	0	Rate of imprisonment is increasing but below the national average
distribution of income	+1	Inequality below the national average and reducing
feeling safe – wellbeing	+1	Perceptions of feeling safe higher than the national average and increasing

inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic


suicide rates	0	Decreasing suicide rate but above the national average
educational attainment	-1	Very poor rate of educational attainment compared to the national average
transparency	N/A	
employment access	+1	Female participation increasing and higher than the national average
housing access	+1	Housing costs decreasing and less than the national average

creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

environmental sustainability	+1	CO2 emissions decreasing
consumer confidence	N/A	
business confidence	N/A	

generous, kind, compassionate

levels of individual giving	0	Levels of giving below the national average
volunteering	0	Volunteering declined but levels are above the national average
international development assistance	N/A	
TOTAL SCORE	+4	



Victoria

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)

Victoria (VIC) is ranked relatively highly mainly because it does very well in two key areas – incarceration rates are not increasing and remain well below most other jurisdictions, and Victorians are relatively generous in giving to others. Unfortunately, suicide rates have increased by over 20% in Victoria and the gap between male and female participation in the workforce is the largest in Australia.

just, fair, safe		
incarceration rates	+1	Stabilising rate of imprisonment well below the national average
distribution of income	0	Inequality below the national average but increasing
feeling safe – wellbeing	0	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing – now close to the national average
inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic		
suicide rates	-1	Suicide rate increased by over 20%
educational attainment	0	Rate of educational attainment is just above the national average
transparency	N/A	
employment access	-1	Female participation rate is significantly lower than the national average
housing access	0	Housing costs close to national average for the lowest quintile
creative, confident, courageous, optimistic		
environmental sustainability	+1	CO2 emissions decreasing
consumer confidence	N/A	
business confidence	N/A	
generous, kind, compassionate		
levels of individual giving	+1	Levels of giving increasing and above the national average
volunteering	0	Volunteering declined but levels are above the national average
international development assistance	N/A	
TOTAL SCORE	+1	



South Australia

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)

South Australia (SA) is a mid-ranking jurisdiction in many areas. Incarceration rates are above the national average and levels of giving are relatively low, but the distribution of income is fairer than most other jurisdictions and female to male workforce participation ratios are better than most others.

just, fair, safe

incarceration rates	-1	Increasing rate of imprisonment above the national average
distribution of income	+1	Inequality below the national average and reducing
feeling safe – wellbeing	0	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing – now close to the national average

inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

suicide rates	-1	Increasing suicide rate - up 20% - and above the national average
educational attainment	-1	Rate of educational attainment is below the national average
transparency	N/A	
employment access	+1	Female participation rate increasing and higher than the national average
housing access	0	Housing costs increasing but well below the national average

creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

environmental sustainability	+1	CO2 emissions decreasing
consumer confidence	N/A	
business confidence	N/A	

generous, kind, compassionate

levels of individual giving	-1	Levels of giving decreasing and below the national average
volunteering	0	Volunteering declined but levels are above the national average
international development assistance	N/A	

TOTAL SCORE

-1



New South Wales

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)

New South Wales (NSW) is the most generous in terms of giving, but is also one of the two states where inequality in income distribution is the highest in Australia. It is also a poor performer in areas like incarceration rates and levels of volunteering which have declined significantly.

just, fair, safe

incarceration rates	-1	Increasing rate of imprisonment above the national average
distribution of income	-1	Inequality higher than the national average and increasing
feeling safe – wellbeing	0	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing – now close to the national average

inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

suicide rates	0	Increasing suicide rate but below the national average
educational attainment	0	Rate of educational attainment equal to the national average
transparency	N/A	
employment access	0	Female participation rate increasing but only just below the national average
housing access	0	Housing costs not increasing, equal to the national average

creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

environmental sustainability	+1	CO2 emissions decreasing
consumer confidence	N/A	
business confidence	N/A	

generous, kind, compassionate

levels of individual giving	+1	Levels of giving increasing and well above the national average
volunteering	-1	Volunteering declined significantly and below the national average
international development assistance	N/A	
TOTAL SCORE	-1	



Queensland

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)

Queensland (QLD) has high levels of incarceration, the highest housing costs in Australia for the lowest quintile of income earners, and low levels of both volunteering and giving, making it one of the poorer ranking states. Queensland achieved a positive rating for the female to male workforce participation ratio and delivered a reduction in CO2 emissions.

just, fair, safe

incarceration rates	-1	Increasing rate of imprisonment above the national average
distribution of income	0	Inequality below the national average but increasing
feeling safe – wellbeing	0	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing – now close to the national average

inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

suicide rates	0	Reducing suicide rate but above the national average
educational attainment	0	Rate of educational attainment very close to the national average
transparency	N/A	
employment access	+1	Female participation rate increasing and higher than the national average
housing access	-1	Housing costs increasing and above the national average

creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

environmental sustainability	+1	CO2 emissions decreasing
consumer confidence	N/A	
business confidence	N/A	

generous, kind, compassionate

levels of individual giving	-1	Levels of giving well below the national average
volunteering	-1	Volunteering declined significantly and below the national average
international development assistance	N/A	
TOTAL SCORE	-2	



Northern Territory

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)

Northern Territory (NT) has a very high incarceration rate – double any other jurisdiction and more than four times the national average. Suicide rates are high, housing costs are high, levels of giving and volunteering are very low making the Northern Territory the second lowest ranking jurisdiction in Australia despite scoring positively on female participation in the workforce and equality of income distribution.

just, fair, safe

incarceration rates	-1	Imprisonment rate four times the national average and increasing
distribution of income	+1	Inequality reducing and below the national average
feeling safe – wellbeing	0	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing but well below the national average

inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

suicide rates	-1	Significant increase in suicide rates and well above the national average
educational attainment	0	Stabilised rate of educational attainment close to the national average
transparency	N/A	
employment access	0	Female participation rate higher than the national average
housing access	-1	Housing costs increasing and above the national average

creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

environmental sustainability	+1	CO2 emissions decreasing
consumer confidence	N/A	
business confidence	N/A	

generous, kind, compassionate

levels of individual giving	-1	Levels of giving well below the national average
volunteering	-1	Volunteering declined significantly and below the national average
international development assistance	N/A	
TOTAL SCORE	-3	



Western Australia

(+1 = positive result, 0 = neutral result, -1 = negative result)

Western Australia (WA) has the highest suicide rates in Australia, female participation in the workforce is the second lowest, incarceration rates are 50% higher than the national average, and CO2 emissions are rising more than any other jurisdiction. Western Australians are also not particularly generous despite a few notable exceptions - the levels of giving are the second lowest in Australia. All these negatives make Western Australia the lowest ranking jurisdiction.

just, fair, safe

incarceration rates	-1	Imprisonment rate 50% higher than the national average and increasing
distribution of income	-1	Inequality higher than the national average and increasing significantly
feeling safe – wellbeing	0	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing but below the national average

inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

suicide rates	-1	Increase in suicide rates and above the national average
educational attainment	0	Stabilised rate of educational attainment close to the national average
transparency	N/A	
employment access	-1	Female participation rate is significantly lower than the national average
housing access	-1	Housing costs increasing and above the national average

creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

environmental sustainability	-1	CO2 emissions increasing
consumer confidence	N/A	
business confidence	N/A	

generous, kind, compassionate

levels of individual giving	-1	Levels of giving well below the national average
volunteering	0	Volunteering declined but above the national average
international development assistance	N/A	
TOTAL SCORE	-7	

Background

Community Council for Australia

The Community Council for Australia is an independent non-political member based organisation dedicated to building flourishing communities by enhancing the extraordinary work of the charities and not-for-profit sector in Australia. CCA seeks to change the way governments, communities and not-for-profits relate to one another. It does so by providing a national voice and facilitation for sector leaders to act on common and shared issues affecting the contribution, performance and viability of not-for-profits in Australia including:

- promoting the values of the sector and the need for reform;
- influencing and shaping relevant policy agendas;
- improving the way people invest in the sector;
- measuring and reporting success in a way that clearly articulates value;
- building collaboration and sector efficiency;
- informing, educating, and assisting organisations in the sector to deal with change and build sustainable futures; and
- providing a catalyst and mechanism for the sector to work in partnership with government, business and the broader Australian community to achieve positive change.

Our success will drive a more sustainable and effective charities and not-for-profit sector in Australia making an increased contribution to the wellbeing and resilience of all our communities.

See www.communitycouncil.com.au for a list of CCA Members.



The charities and not-for-profit sector

The not-for-profit sector contributes almost 5% to GDP per annum, employs nearly 1.2 million staff (over eight per cent of employees in Australia), turns over more than \$122 billion, and holds nearly \$200 billion in assets (ACNC August 2016). In the last decade, sector growth has outstripped any other industry group, continuing at approximately 7 per cent a year.

These figures tell only a small part of the story. The real value of the not-for-profit sector is often in the unmeasured contribution to Australian quality of life. Not-for-profits are at the heart of our communities; building connection, nurturing spiritual and cultural expression, supporting the vulnerable and enhancing the productivity of all Australians. Not-for profits make us a more resilient society.

The recent history of the not-for-profit sector is framed by growth and reform, but there are a number of new issues emerging. The level of individual philanthropic giving has still not recovered to the high in 2009. At the same time, revenue available to governments is effectively falling in real terms against a backdrop of increasing demands and higher community expectations.

There have been numerous reports and recommendations relating to the not-for-profit sector over the last decade, but it is only in recent years that governments have enacted some of these recommendations and embarked on a long overdue process of reform and enhancement. The establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) is one of these positive reforms.

In the context of recent changes, the not-for-profit sector is slowly but surely finding its voice - building its collective power and seeking real reform that will provide substantial benefits for the sector, our governments and the communities we serve.



Developing measures of the AusWeWant

The AusWeWant Roundtable brought together 60 leaders from across the not-for-profit sector to talk about the Australia we want and our role in achieving it. The roundtable began with some opening remarks and general discussion before all participants were divided into small groups and asked to identify words and values that described the Australia they want to live in.

The discussions that followed were energetic and uplifting with many people talking about why a particular value was important for them in their community and what it would mean for Australia. Each group provided a brief report to all participants with a priority listing of what they saw as the most important values. In summarising the listing of 25 key values, it became clear that all of the small group discussions arrived at a statement of values that could be included in the following four broad collections of values:

1. just, fair, safe
2. inclusive, equality of opportunity, united, authentic
3. creative, confident, courageous, optimistic
4. generous, kind, compassionate

Each small discussion group was then asked to identify two measures or proofs that might indicate that each of the values they had prioritised were actually being achieved in Australia. Coming up with a list of meaningful measures was very challenging, but most groups approached this task with the understanding that without measures, words could just be seen as empty rhetoric.

Several groups found the whole process of developing measures for the Australia they wanted really pushed their discussions to new levels and new ideas about what really mattered. This was a much more difficult discussion as many of the suggested measures could be interpreted in a number of different ways. One person's reflection of a particular value did not always reflect a shared understanding of what that value meant in practice.

In the large group reporting back on the deliberations of all participants, a number of key measures emerged.

For each of the four broad sets of values at least three measures have been identified that reflect the deliberations both within groups and whilst reporting back to the broader discussion.

As part of this report an explanation of each measure has been provided, although it is important to note that some of the measures are quite complex and could be subject to extensive discussion and debate in themselves. The selection of measures was also informed by the need to ensure, wherever possible, that each measure is repeatable, available, regularly updated, and includes international and jurisdictional breakdowns of the information. This approach means the primary sources of data about the key indicators tend to be major information providers such as; the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

This is a first report. It provides an important set of benchmarks. It is anticipated both the methodology and data sources will be further refined and improved as the report is repeated over the coming years.

just,
fair,
safe

1

1. just, fair, safe

Fairness is a word that is often used in Australia, but what does fairness mean? Is it fair to increase taxes or reduce taxes? An argument could be made both ways. Putting meaning to words like 'just, fair, safe,' requires us to move beyond the feel-good intentions and translate them into real measure of the kind of society we want to live in. To make our words meaningful, leaders from the not-for-profit sector identified the indicators outlined below.

1a. just, fair, safe - incarceration rates

The rate at which we imprison members of our own community is a complex measure that reflects partially on levels of crime and enforcement, attitudes to punishment and rehabilitation, court and justice systems, and adequacy of support for those most vulnerable. Prison can be the last resort for drug users, those in extreme poverty, the homeless, those who cannot participate in community. Indigenous people; those with poor literacy; those from lower socio-economic families; people with disability, people with mental health issues; are all grossly over-represented in the Australian prison population (AIHW 2015). Men are twelve times more likely to be in prison. It is important to note that less than 25% of our prison population are there because of acts of violence against others.

Australia

The number of prisoners in Australia rose by seven percent in 2015. The rate of imprisonment grew by six percent. Our rate of incarceration is 196 per 100,000, higher than any country in Western Europe, more than double Scandinavian countries, and higher than comparable countries such as Canada. (The US is a real outlier amongst OECD countries with a staggering imprisonment rate of over 700 per 100,000).

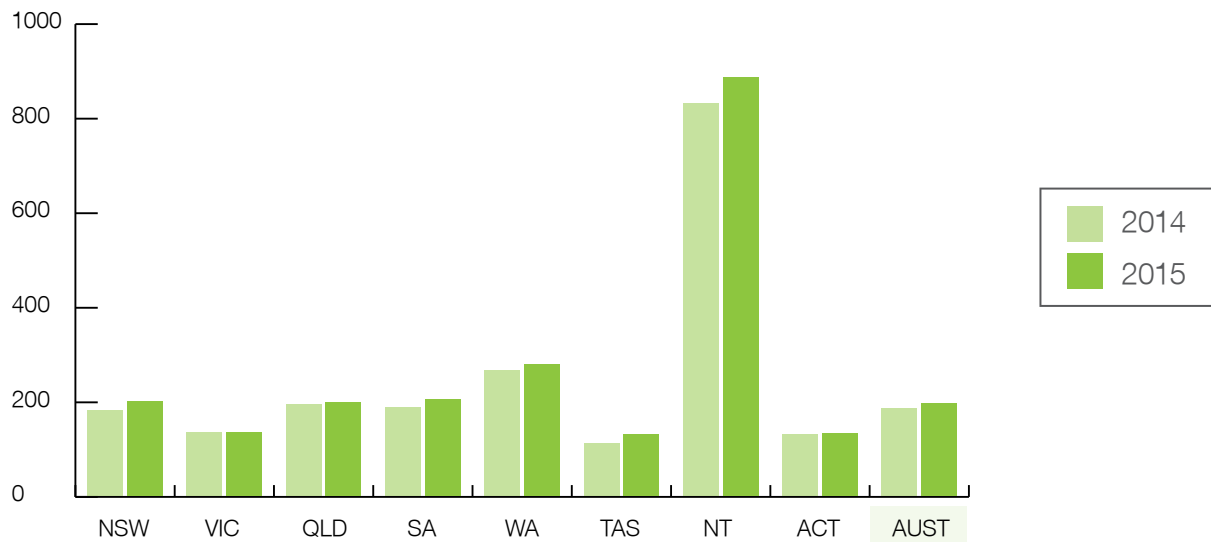
Key issues of concern arising from our incarceration rates include:

- the number of un-sentenced prisoners in custody grew by over 20% to 9,898, many waiting months to obtain their sentence;
- the incarceration rate of adult Indigenous people is now 2,253 per 100,000, which is more than 15 times the imprisonment rate of non-Indigenous Australians;
- less than 20% of adult prisoners have achieved year 12 education;
- one in three adult prisoners have a disability or long term chronic health condition.

State and territory

Imprisonment rates (per 100,000 people)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2014	181.7	134.4	192.9	187.9	264.6	112.0	829.4	130.4	185.6
2015	199.9	134.4	197.7	204.4	278.2	129.6	885.1	131.3	195.8



Three jurisdictions have imprisonment rates significantly lower than the national average: Tasmania, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. Imprisonment rates in the Northern Territory are four times the national average and Western Australia imprisonment rates are almost 50% higher than the national average. New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia are all slightly above the national average. Interestingly, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory have maintained relatively stable imprisonment rates, despite the national increase.

Findings

Australia has a relatively large imprisonment rate that is increasing at a significant rate. Australia receives a negative rating.

States and territories are ranked according to whether their rate of imprisonment is below or above the national average and whether the rate is increasing or decreasing. To obtain a positive rating they must have stabilised their imprisonment rate at a level significantly below the national average. Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory are the only two jurisdictions with a positive rating. Tasmania has a relatively low rate, but the rate has increased significantly in the last 12 months. All other jurisdictions have increasing rates above the national rate.

Just, fair, safe: incarceration rates

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Score	-1	+1	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	+1	-1

1b. just, fair, safe - distribution of income

The distribution of income is often used as a measure of inequality as it looks at how a country's GDP is distributed among its population (O'Sullivan and Sheffrin 2003). It is important to look at distribution as well as income growth to get a more complete picture of what is happening in an economy; while looking at growth gives a sense of how well an economy is doing, distribution highlights who is benefiting from this growth and who is being left behind. In fact, although variations in income across individual and households can be explained by a variety of factors – including personal characteristics and circumstances (Greenville et al. 2013) – differences in income can also reflect broader, and sometimes biased, economic trends and policies.

Australia

The GINI coefficient measures how far a country's income distribution is from perfect equality. A GINI coefficient can range from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates perfect equality and 100 perfect inequality. According to the OECD, in 2012, Australia's GINI coefficient was 32.6; higher than the GINI coefficient of more than half the OECD countries (OECD 2016d). As per OECD figures, Australia's GINI coefficient had further increased to 33.73 in 2014 (OECD 2016d).

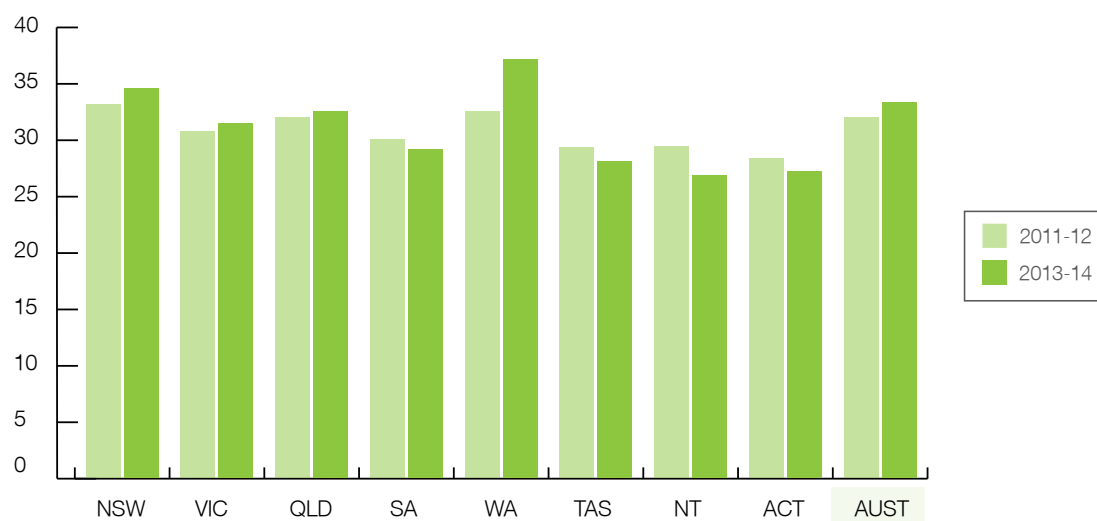
Key issues of concern arising from the distribution of income:

- In 2013-14, average weekly equivalised disposable household income in Australia was \$998, an increase from \$964 in 2011-12 (ABS 2015c), however, over the same period, Australia's income distribution also became more unequal.
- In 2012, a person in the top 20% income group in Australia had around five times as much income as someone in the bottom 20% (ACOSS 2015).

State and territory

GINI coefficients (ABS)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2011-2012	33.1	30.7	32.0	30.0	32.5	29.3	29.4	28.3	32.0
2013-2014	34.5	31.4	32.5	29.1	37.1	28.1	26.8	27.2	33.3



For both years, two jurisdictions had a GINI coefficient higher than the national average: New South Wales and Western Australia. South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory all had a lower GINI coefficient in 2013-14 compared to 2011-12.

Findings

Australia's GINI coefficient has increased between 2011-12 and 2013-14, indicating growing inequality in the distribution of income, while also being higher than most OECD countries. Australia receives a negative ranking.

States and territories are ranked according to whether their GINI coefficient is below or above the national average, and whether the rate is increasing or decreasing. To obtain a positive rating, they must have a GINI coefficient lower than the national average and decreasing over time at a level significantly below the national average. Victoria and Queensland have a GINI coefficient below the national average, but increasing between 2011-12 and 2013-14.

Just, fair, safe: distribution of income

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Score	-1	0	0	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1

1c. just, fair, safe - feeling safe - wellbeing

There are a range of measures of wellbeing that are used in Australia including the emerging Australian National Development Index (ANDI). There are also global measures such as the Sustainable Development Goals. These are very useful data sets, but often lack a breakdown by jurisdiction or meaningful international comparisons.

More than one in two women in Australia report not feeling safe.

An individual's wellbeing is dependent on their level of satisfaction with various aspects of their life, including how safe they feel (Australian Unity 2010). Feeling and being safe is critical to wellbeing; being a victim of crime and violence can have short and long-term negative consequences on an individual's physical and mental health (OECD 2015c).

It is very difficult to get accurate comparable international data on actual levels of safety including violence within families, unreported violence across communities and levels of perceived threat to the safety of individuals. For this reason, this report draws on reported feelings of safety.

How safe people feel is also a reflection of how much they perceive that they, and their property, are protected. These feelings affect their participation in, and connection with, their community (OECD 2014).

Australia

In 2015, according to the OECD, 62.6% of people in Australia reported feeling safe when walking alone at night. This is a lower proportion compared to the OECD average of 68.3% in the same year. This is particularly pronounced for women, with only 48.1% of women in Australia reporting feeling safe – much below the OECD average of 60.6% for women. On the other hand, 79.6% of men in Australia reported feeling safe, higher than the OECD average of 76.3% for men.

Key issues of concern arising from the feelings of safety:

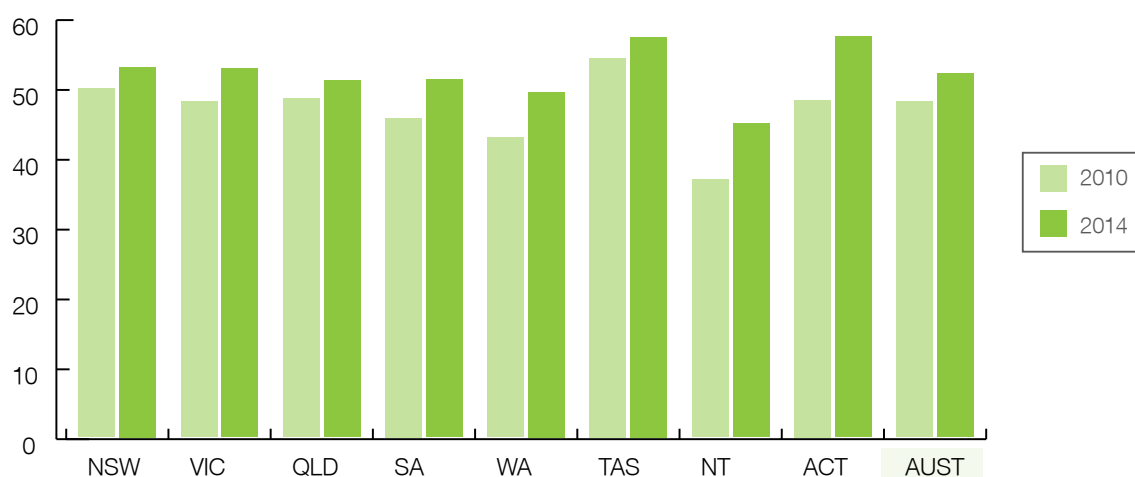
- More than one in three people in Australia do not feel safe when walking alone at night. How safe people feel when walking alone at night often relates, amongst other things, to the level of crime and violence in the area and individuals' level of trust in their community (ABS 2011).
- Women feel particularly vulnerable, with more than one in two women in Australia reporting not feeling safe.

State and territory

All states and territories had an increase in the proportion of people reporting feeling safe between 2010 and 2014. However, in 2014, the proportion of people reporting feeling safe in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory was below the national average. This increase in feeling safe was also the case in 2010, except for Queensland.

Feeling of safety (percentage of population)¹

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2010	49.9	48.1	48.5	45.7	42.9	54.3	36.9	48.3	48.1
2014	53.0	52.8	51.1	51.2	49.4	57.3	44.9	57.4	52.1



Findings

Feelings of safety in Australia increased between 2010 and 2014. However, the proportion of people in Australia reporting feeling safe in 2015 was lower than the OECD average. Australia receives a zero ranking.

States and territories are ranked according to whether the proportion of people reporting feeling safe is below or above the national average, and whether it is increasing or decreasing. To obtain a positive rating, they must have a proportion of people reporting feeling safe higher than the national average and increasing over time at a level significantly higher than the national average.

With reported levels of safety below the national average, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory receive a neutral rating despite perceived safety increasing since 2010. New South Wales and Victoria also receive a zero as they were only slightly above the national average in both years. Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania are well above the national average and improving. They both achieved a positive score.

Just, fair, safe: feeling safe - wellbeing

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Score	0	0	0	0	0	+1	0	+1	0

¹ Includes people reporting feeling safe and very safe when walking alone in local area after dark

inclusive,
equal opportunity,
united,
authentic

2

2. inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

In considering what words like 'inclusive' mean in practice, leaders in the not-for-profit sector struggled to find measures that covered the different possibilities. In many ways, being included is a subjective experience – do people feel as though they can have input into the practices and policies that impact on their lives, including all levels of government policy making? At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that the indicators below collectively reflect the degree to which Australia is genuinely inclusive.

2a. inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic - suicide rates

Suicide reflects a multitude of issues, but it is generally agreed that it is one indicator of the degree to which people feel valued and included, not just in their families, but also in broader social and economic structures. People who are living flourishing lives have very low levels of suicide ideation (Keyes, 2012). People living languishing lives have much higher levels of suicide ideation. The difference between languishing and flourishing is primarily about the level to which people feel positive about themselves and their place in their communities.

The rate at which Australians take their own lives is typically under-reported. Most people would prefer if the sudden death of a loved one was an accident rather than a suicide. There are many instances of families pursuing legal action and taking other costly measures to ensure a death is not recorded as a suicide.

There has been some work with coroners across Australia to better identify and report suicide deaths, but it remains an issue that is quite difficult and challenging, especially when there are no indicative notes, goodbyes or explanations left by the deceased. Even where there are notes, the disconnect between the perceptions of the person who has suicided and the people who remain can be a life-long source of anguish.

It is important to note that suicide may or may not be associated with a mental health issue. The notion that all people who suicide are suffering depression or some other mental illness is not accurate.

It is also important to note that there is some evidence that suicide has a measure of contagion, particularly in isolated communities. Clusters of suicides can occur. This is particularly true when talking about youth suicide and suicides in Indigenous communities.

Australia

Our rate of suicide is increasing in Australia. In 2014, 2160 males and 704 females died by suicide (ABS 2016a), an increase of 295 on the previous year. This amounts to 12.0 deaths per 100,000 per annum.

On average in Australia in 2014, 7.8 people suicided every day.

Key issues of concern arising from our suicide rates include:

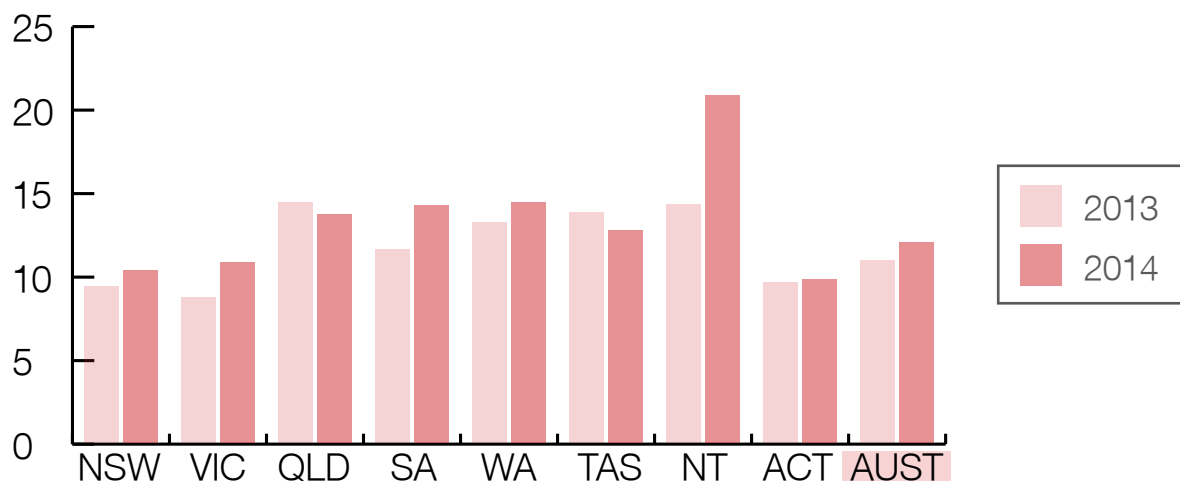
- Young males are most likely to suicide.
- The largest increase was in males aged 30 to 35 where the number of suicides rose from 161 to 230 in 12 months.
- The suicide rate of young Indigenous people is four times that of non-Indigenous youth.

Global suicide statistics are even less reliable than our national figures. Some countries have very limited data collection around suicide for cultural and other reasons. Drawing on what data is available, the World Health Organisation has positioned Australia as a mid-ranking or second tier country in terms of suicide rate. There are many countries around the world, especially in Africa and Eastern Europe, where suicide rates are above 15 per 100,000 each year.

State and territory

Deaths by suicide (per 100,000 people) (ABS)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2013	9.4	8.7	14.4	11.6	13.2	13.8	14.3	9.6	10.9
2014	10.3	10.8	13.7	14.2	14.4	12.7	20.8	9.8	12.0



It is important to note that Western Australia, Queensland and Northern Territory all have higher numbers of Indigenous people as a proportion of their population. They are the three jurisdictions that have significantly higher levels of suicide compared to the national average.










Queensland have managed to reduce their suicide rate, but it is still above the national average.

Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory are all below the national average. Northern Territory, South Australia and Victoria have had the biggest increases in the last 12 months (over 20%).

Findings

Australia has an unacceptably high suicide rate and it is increasing. On this basis it cannot be scored positively. States and territories are ranked according to whether their suicide rate is increasing (above 20% increase means -1) and whether the rate is above or below the national average. The Australian Capital Territory obtained a positive rating with the lowest suicide rate in Australia and little real change in their rate. In Queensland, the rate reduced, but it is still above the national average. New South Wales has the second lowest rate, but it increased by 10% in the last 12 months. For this reason, it cannot be scored positively.

Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic: suicide rates

	 NSW	 VIC	 QLD	 SA	 WA	 TAS	 NT	 ACT	 AUST
Score	0	-1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	+1	-1



2b. inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic - educational attainment

Educational attainment has been acknowledged as having an impact on various social and economic outcomes. Higher levels of education are not only associated with higher levels of employment and earnings, but adults with higher qualifications are also more likely to report being in good health, participate in volunteer activities and feel like they have a say in government (OECD 2015b).

Not everyone gets an equal opportunity when it comes to educational attainment. Access to education varies across locations and population groups. Research has shown that children from low socio-economic backgrounds (Considine and Zappala 2002) and children whose parents have low levels of education (Goss et al. 2016) perform less well in school than children from higher economic status and more educated families. There are also demographic shifts as those educated post 1960 are more likely to have completed secondary education.

Australia

According to the OECD (2015), in 2014, 23% of adults aged 25 to 64 in Australia had a highest level of educational attainment equivalent below completion of secondary school. This is slightly lower than the OECD average of 24% and represents an improvement from the 2010 Australian figure of 27%.

Key issues of concern arising from our educational attainment rate include:

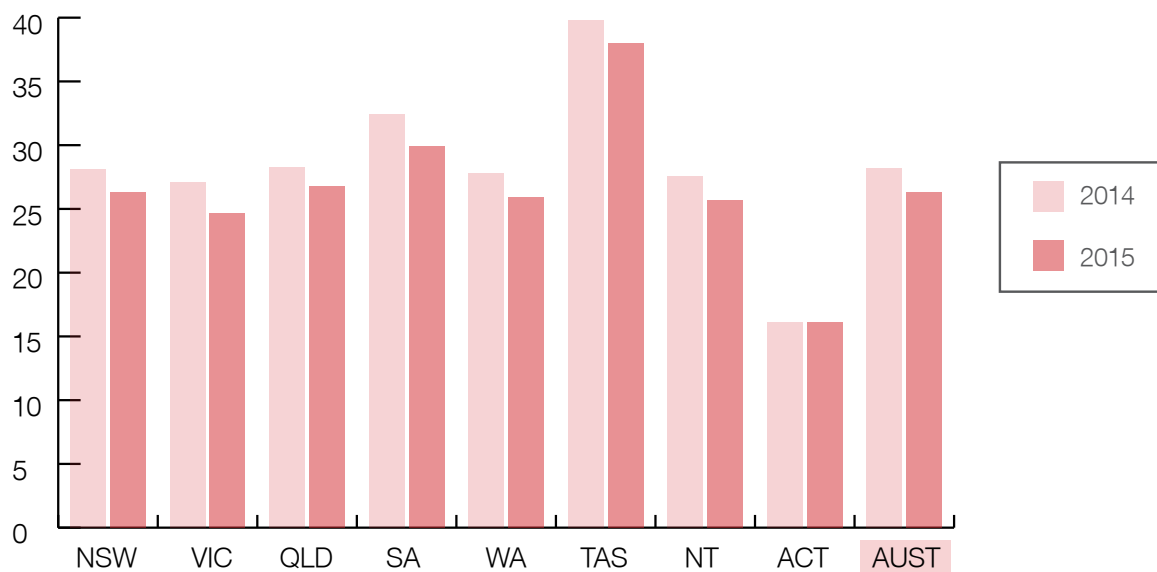
- More than one in five Australians in 2014 still did not complete secondary education and given the repercussions of levels of education attainment on social wellbeing outcomes, this figure is still high.
- Inherited educational opportunity clearly reinforces inequality – children of those with lower educational attainment are more at risk of lower educational attainment.

State and territory

Percentage of 15 to 74 year olds with Year 11 or below as their highest level of education (ABS)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2014	28.1	27.1	28.3	32.4	27.8	39.8	27.6	16.1	28.2
2015	26.3	24.7	26.8	29.9	25.9	38.0	25.7	16.1	26.3

Percentage of 15 to 74 year olds with Year 11 or below as their highest level of education (ABS)



All states and territories had a decrease in the percentage of 15 to 74 year olds with Year 11 or below as their highest level of education between 2014 and 2015, except for the Australian Capital Territory which maintained a level of 16.1%, well below national average.

New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania all had rates of low educational attainment at or above the national average, with Tasmania's figure almost double that of Australia as a whole.

Findings

With a rate below the OECD average and improving over time, Australia is scored positively on educational attainment.

States and territories are ranked according to whether the percentage of people with Year 11 or below as a highest level of educational attainment is above or below the national average, and whether the rate is increasing or decreasing. To obtain a positive rating, they must have a percentage of people with Year 11 or below as a highest level of educational attainment that is lower than the national average and decreasing over time.

South Australia and Tasmania are scored negatively due to being well above the national average, in spite of a small decrease between the two years. Most other states are close to the national average and scored a zero.

The Australian Capital Territory is the only jurisdiction to be scored positively for having a rate stabilised well below the national average.

Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic: educational attainment

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Score	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	+1	+1

2c. inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic - transparency

Government transparency in reporting decision making processes and the outcomes achieved is a critical element of inclusive societies. The level of transparency in government decision making and access to information about the communities in which we live is also a reflection of the potential for corruption in government decision making and the formulation of public policy. Societies with higher levels of transparency promote greater engagement from citizens, have lower levels of corruption, and tend to perform better in terms of productivity.

Australia

The annual Corruption Perception Index compiled by Transparency International uses 12 surveys of expert assessment and views of business people globally.

The 2015 Transparency International report indicates that world-wide perceptions of the level of corruption in Australia's government sector continue to worsen, with Australia's Corruption Perception Index score falling to 79, down from 85 in 2012, 81 in 2013 and 80 in 2014.

Australia is now ranked 13th out of the 168 countries included in the Corruption Perception Index – down six positions since 2012, and joining countries like Libya, Brazil, Spain and Turkey as big decliners over that period.

The highest ranked country is Denmark with a score of 91. New Zealand is consistently in the top three.










State and territory

No data is available at the state and territory level.

Findings

With Australia still in the top 20 globally in terms of transparency and above over 150 countries in the perceived level of corruption, it is difficult to score Australia poorly. At the same time, Australia is slowly slipping down the global index of transparency, having declined seven percent since 2012. For this reason, Australia scores a zero on transparency and perceptions of corruption.

Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic: transparency

	 NSW	 VIC	 QLD	 SA	 WA	 TAS	 NT	 ACT	 AUST
Score	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

2d. inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic - employment access

Participation in employment is an essential foundation for a healthy society and economy. Employment is a way for all citizens to not only gain income, but also feel valued. Access to employment is a critical indicator of the strength of any community and can be seen as an indicator of opportunity and inclusiveness. For example, while female participation in employment is on the rise, it is still below male participation in employment. Females are also more likely to work part time while males are more likely to work full time (ABS 2016b). Although this can partly be explained by personal choice and/or circumstances, factors like gender discrimination can also play a role. The gap in the gender employment ratio is a key comparable indicator of equal access to employment.

Australia

Australia's total employment to population ratio, at 60.8% in 2014, was higher than that of the OECD average of 55.6% in the same year. The gap between male and female employment as a ratio of their respective population was also lower for Australia at 11 percentage points, compared to 15.7 percentage points for the OECD average.

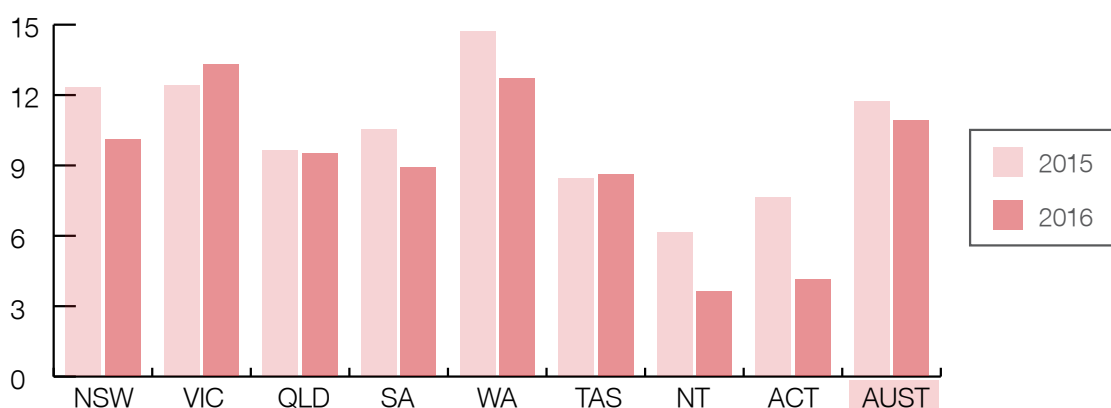
Key issues of concern arising from our employment access include:

- While Australia has a lower gap in employment to population ratio by gender, it remained at around 11 percentage points between 2013 and 2014.
- In addition to women being less likely to being in employment than men, the full time gender pay gap is currently at 17.3% nationally (WGEA 2016).

State and territory

Gap between male and female employment to population ratio (percentage points) (ABS)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2015	12.3	12.4	9.6	10.5	14.7	8.4	6.1	7.6	11.7
2016	10.1	13.3	9.5	8.9	12.7	8.6	3.6	4.1	10.9



Victoria and Western Australia are the only two jurisdictions with a gap between male and female employment to population ratio higher than the national average.

It is important to note that the decrease in the gap for the Northern Territory is not due to an increase in female employment but rather a decrease in the male employment to population rate.

Findings










With a rate below the OECD average and improving over time, Australia is scored positively on employment access.

States and territories are ranked according to whether the gap between male and female employment to their respective population ratio is lower than the national average, and whether it is getting smaller or wider. To obtain a positive rating, they must have a gap between male and female employment to their respective population ratio under the national average, and decreasing over time at a level significantly below the national average.

Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory all score positively as their gap is below the national average and decreasing over time.

The Northern Territory gets a zero because the decrease in the gap is due to a lower male employment to male population rate rather than an increase in female employment.

Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic: employment access

	 NSW	 VIC	 QLD	 SA	 WA	 TAS	 NT	 ACT	 AUST
Score	0	-1	+1	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	+1

2e. inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic - housing access

Access to housing is critical for a variety of positive socio-economic outcomes. Housing not only provides shelter, it also plays an important part in people's living standards (OECD 2011), as well as affecting health and wellbeing (Muir et al. 2015). Housing costs often make up a large part of any household's expenditure (ABS 2015a) and with decreasing housing affordability, low income households are particularly vulnerable to housing stress – a situation where more than 30% of their disposable income is spent on housing costs (AIHW 2013), with little left over for other expenses.

Australia

According to the OECD, Australia's housing expenditure as a percentage of the household gross adjusted disposable income averages 20%. This is just below the OECD average of 21% (OECD 2016c).

Key issues of concern arising from our housing access include:

- While housing costs as a proportion of gross income across all households averages 20% (OECD 2016c), housing costs¹ as a proportion of gross income for the lowest quintile in Australia average 27% (ABS 2015b).

State and territory

Housing costs as a proportion (percentage) of gross household income for the lowest quintile (ABS)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2011-12	27	27	29	20	26	22	26	32	26
2013-14	27	26	31	22	29	20	29	29	27



2 Note that the OECD calculation and the ABS calculation of housing costs might differ

Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia have a housing cost to income ratio for the lowest quintile lower than the national average. All other states and territories were at or above the Australian average.

Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, in particular, experienced an increase in housing costs as a proportion of gross income for the lowest quintile between 2011-12 and 2013-14.

Findings










With a rate just under the OECD average and looking at housing costs as a proportion of gross income across all households, Australia is scored zero on housing access.

States and territories are ranked according to whether housing costs as a proportion of gross income for the lowest income quintile is lower than the national average, and whether it is increasing or decreasing. To obtain a positive rating, they must have a housing costs to income ratio under the national average, and decreasing over time at a level significantly below the national average.

Tasmania is the only state with a positive score due to a housing cost to income ratio below the national average for both years, and decreasing between 2011-12 and 2013-14.

Victoria is just below the national average and decreasing slightly between the two years. South Australia housing costs are well below the national average, but they are increasing. New South Wales costs to income ratio is at the national average and not increasing or decreasing. These three states all score a zero. All other states and territories are scored negatively due to increases and/or ratios at or higher than the national average.

Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic: housing access

	 NSW	 VIC	 QLD	 SA	 WA	 TAS	 NT	 ACT	 AUST
Score	0	0	-1	0	-1	+1	-1	-1	0

creative,
confident,
courageous,
optimistic

3

3. creative, confident, courageous, optimistic

At the heart of Australia's innovation and compassion is our capacity to express ourselves, to understand the world in different ways, to take risks, and to be prepared to work hard in the short term for longer term gains. Leaders in the not-for-profit sector believed strongly in developing Australia's capacity to be bold and move beyond the predictable. The kind of society we live in, our future as a nation, will partly depend on our attitudes, our preparedness to walk in others shoes and understand beyond our own limited experiences.

3a. creative, confident, courageous, optimistic - support for the arts

When considering how best to measure government and community support for arts activities including the levels of participation in the arts across Australia, there appears to be a lack of current comparable data. While there is some data about ticket sales for arts events and performances, this data is constantly changing with varying sources of information used each year to inform reports. This makes comparisons between years problematic. There is some comparable data about audience numbers and ticket sales for major arts companies, but knowing how many people attend major arts events is not necessarily a good indicator of broader arts participation. Nor does this information tell us about levels of government support for the arts.

The Australian Arts Council has published some informative surveys about levels of participation and engagement in various arts activities, but these surveys only happen infrequently. While the findings are useful in understanding arts participation, they do not provide meaningful comparable information about annual trends.

The OECD has no real comparable data about arts participation or comparable data on government expenditure. Often heritage and other cultural spending is included with arts expenditure.

The ABS published annual reports detailing arts expenditure by governments up until 2013, but has not collected or provided any more current data. CCA understand the ABS is now considering updating this data. Given this data set is likely to be repeated in the future and provides a good analysis of government arts expenditure, this report will draw on the last data set provided by the ABS, the 2012-13 data report.

It is important to note, however, that this data is now out of date. Since 2013, state and federal budget documents indicate some governments have increased arts expenditure significantly, while others have not. Given the changes since 2013 and the difficulty of making clear comparisons, findings in this section of the report will adopt a neutral approach. It is anticipated that future AusWeWant reports will be able to draw on new validated ABS data and therefore provide more meaningful findings.

Australia

According to ABS data, the Australian government provided \$1,756.2 million to support Arts activities in 2012-13, with the majority of this expenditure being directed to radio and television services (73% or \$1,281.1 million).

The value of expenditure per person for arts activities supported by the Australian Government fell from \$77.50 in 2011-12 to \$76.60 in 2012-13.

State and territory

Total state and territory Arts expenditure in 2013 was \$843.8m down from \$864.5m in 2011-12. In per-person terms this amounts to a reduction from \$38.40 in 2011-12 to \$36.80 in 2012-13.

The governments of New South Wales (29%), Victoria, (23%) and Queensland (16%) contributed over two thirds (67%) of all Arts expenditure in 2012-13. On a per person basis, however, the smaller states and territories tend to have higher Arts expenditure.










Performing arts venues accounted for the highest amount of state and territory Arts expenditure (\$270.1 million) in 2012-13. The New South Wales Government provided 51% and the Victorian Government contributed 20% of the estimate of expenditure in this category.

Other arts and film/video production/distribution were also major components of arts expenditure, accounting for \$225.6 million and \$92.0 million respectively. The Victorian Government accounted for \$42.1 million (46%) of the estimate of expenditure on film/video production/distribution.

Findings

Given the issues with available information and data sets, this report is not in a position to either positively or negatively rate Australia's support for the arts. While information is available suggesting Australia's support for the arts is at different levels in different jurisdictions, the data is not current enough to justify providing a finding in this year's report

Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic - support for the arts

									
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Score	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

3b. creative, confident, courageous, optimistic - environmental sustainability

The quality of the environment affects us in many ways: it has direct consequences on individuals' health as well as their level of wellbeing. It also affects the economy through its effects on workers' health and productivity as well as access to natural resources (OECD n.d.). Environmental sustainability is increasingly being recognised as important, for example, through the introduction of the triple bottom line reporting. It also reflects a more forward looking and longer term thinking society that places a value on future diversity and environmental sustainability.

Australia

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are a "major contributor to the enhanced greenhouse effect" and "is a key factor in countries' ability to deal with climate change" (OECD 2015a: 22). According to the OECD, Australia's total CO₂ emissions were 388.7 million tonnes in 2013, higher than the OECD average of 365.9 million tonnes¹.

Key issues of concern arising from our environmental sustainability include:

- Australia's level of CO₂ emissions is higher than the OECD average.
- The level of CO₂ emissions increased between 2010 and 2013 from 383.5 to 388.7 million tonnes.

State and Territory

National Inventory Total (excluding LULUCF), Carbon Dioxide, Gigagrams

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST ²
2013	103,148.25	100,898.71	89,306.73	21,674.77	68,467.26	5,368.20	6,140.96	1,013.42	49,502.29
2014	100,320.96	98,966.39	88,934.80	21,193.25	70,542.28	5,080.36	6,138.70	1,003.87	49,022.58

¹ Note that the OECD average was computed manually from individual country OECD data on CO₂ emissions

² Note that the Australian average was computed manually from individual state and territory data on CO₂ emissions from Australian Greenhouse Emissions Information System (AEGIS)

National Inventory Total (excluding LULUCF), Carbon Dioxide, Gigagrams



South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory all have CO₂ emissions lower than the national average. However, it is worth noting that CO₂ emissions would be expected to be higher in more densely populated areas.










Findings

With a rate above the OECD average and increasing over time Australia is scored negatively on environmental sustainability.

States and territories are ranked according to whether CO₂ emissions are decreasing or increasing over time. The size of the difference and whether the level of CO₂ emissions by state and territory is below or above the national average is not taken into account as population levels are expected to negatively impact levels of CO₂ emissions.

Western Australia is the only state to be scored negatively due to an increase in CO₂ emissions between 2013 and 2014.

Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic: environmental sustainability

	 NSW	 VIC	 QLD	 SA	 WA	 TAS	 NT	 ACT	 AUST
Score	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1

3c. creative, confident, courageous, optimistic - confidence

Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) and Business Confidence Index (BCI) capture how optimistic consumers and business are about the state of the economy, expressed through their spending and saving activities. The BCI and CCI are both leading indicators, that is, they provide information about the current state of affairs that can indicate possible future turn of events in the economy. The BCI and CCI are assessed in relation to an index benchmark of 100 (OECD 2016a; OECD 2016b).

Australia

As the world economies recover from the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), business and consumer confidence have been generally increasing post-2009. In February 2016, the CCI for Australia was 99.7, slightly below the OECD average of 100.3. In contrast, the BCI for Australia was 101.4 and higher than the OECD average of 99.9. However, both the CCI and BCI for Australia improved when compared to February 2015 figures of 99.6 and 100.7 respectively.

Key issues of concern arising from our confidence levels include:

- Although both business and consumer confidence is on the rise, consumer confidence is still below the index benchmark of 100 and the OECD average. This might reflect perceptions relating to support for businesses, while increasing cost of living (ABS 2016a) is putting additional financial pressures on households.

State and territory










No comparable data is available at the state and territory level.

Findings










With a rate below the OECD average and the index benchmark, Australia is scored negatively on consumer confidence.

With a rate above the OECD average and the index benchmark, Australia is scored positively on business confidence.

Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic: consumer confidence

									
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Score	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-1

Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic: business confidence

									
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Score	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+1

Averaging these two scores, we give Australia a neutral (0) finding on this confidence indicator.



generous,
kind,
compassionate

4

4. generous, kind, compassionate

In some ways, the indicators associated with compassion and generosity are more obvious. We can look at the level to which Australia gives support to people in other countries where extreme poverty and disadvantage is prevalent, or the level to which we contribute a percentage of our individual wealth to others less fortunate than ourselves. While these measures are not absolute in terms of proving a practical commitment to the values of generosity and compassion, they provide a very important indicator of the degree to which the communities we grow up in demonstrate genuine care for others.

4a. generous, kind, compassionate - individual generosity - levels of giving

It is often said that Australia is a generous nation, but what does this mean? A good repeatable measure of individual giving is the Australian Taxation Office reports of levels of tax exemption claimed by income earners for contributions of Tax Deductible Gifts or Donations (Item D9) to approved charities and not-for-profits. While this measure does not capture all giving, it is a sample of over 10 million tax payers repeated each year that provides a broad indication of levels of giving and excellent monitoring of trends on a yearly basis.

It is important to note however, that other forms of giving appear to be increasing through structures like Private Ancillary Funds (PAFs), a common form of private foundation. There are now over 1,200 PAFs in Australia reflecting fairly steady growth since their introduction by the Howard Government in 2001. While growth in donations has slowed, in 2013-14 PAFs distributed \$300 million towards charitable causes.

Australia

On average in the 2013-14 financial year, Australian tax payers donated approximately 0.35% of their taxable income to Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisations. This represents an increase from 0.32% in 2012-13 but remains lower than the 0.42% recorded in 2007-08.

It is important to note that the reference point for these findings is not the total amount given – no-one would expect someone earning less than \$50,000 per annum to contribute the same amount as someone earning \$500,000. This is why percentage of income being claimed back from the ATO for gifts and donations is the primary measure of generosity in this indicator.

The actual value of gifts and donations has increased marginally from around \$2.4 billion in 2007-2008 to \$2.6 billion in 2013-2014. This increase in total deductions claimed also reflects higher levels of income. The average deduction claimed back from the Australian Taxation Office is around \$575, a significant increase from 2012-2013.

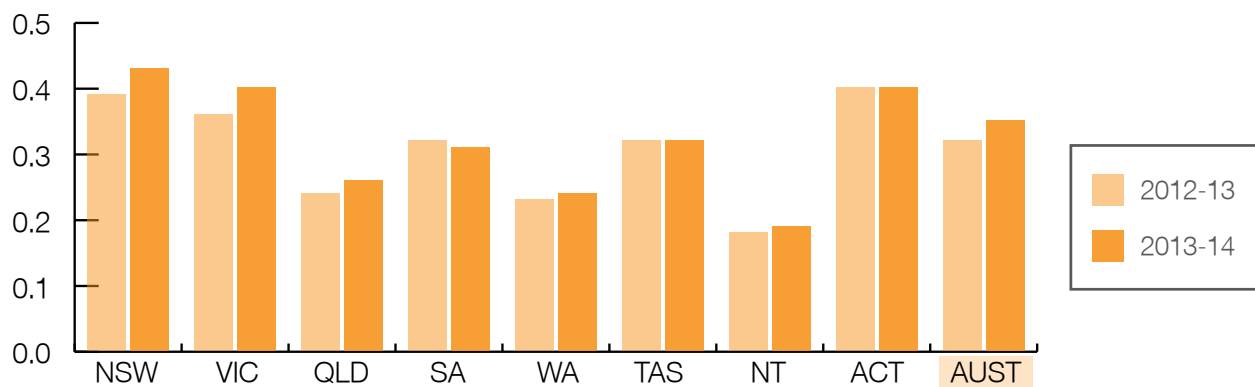
The percentage of Australian taxpayers claiming a deduction for gifts or donations has remained relatively constant at around 35%.

While international comparisons are extremely difficult due to very different methodologies for calculating the amount being given by individuals to charities and not-for-profits, what data is available suggests Australians give significantly less than individuals in the United States, and less than comparable countries like Canada and the United Kingdom.

State and territory

Claimed deductions for gifts and donations as a percentage of individual taxpayer income

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2012/ 2013	0.39	0.36	0.24	0.32	0.23	0.32	0.18	0.40	0.32
2013/ 2014	0.43	0.40	0.26	0.31	0.24	0.32	0.19	0.40	0.35












Findings

Australians have been less generous since the Global Financial Crisis; however more recent data is suggesting that levels of giving are slowly increasing. We are still not back to pre-Global Financial Crisis levels of individual giving as a percentage of our incomes, but the trends are positive.

New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory are well above the national average, and both Victoria and New South Wales increased their levels of giving in the last year of ATO published data. Tasmania is close to the national average. South Australia actually recorded the only reduction in levels of giving over the 12-month period, and all other states and territories are well below the national average.

Generous, kind, compassionate: levels of individual giving

	 NSW	 VIC	 QLD	 SA	 WA	 TAS	 NT	 ACT	 AUST
Score	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	+1	0

4b. generous, kind, compassionate - volunteering

Volunteering is at the heart of community life in Australia; in education, sport, emergency services, welfare housing, culture, the arts and so many other areas, volunteers make Australia a better place to live. In many ways, our preparedness to give our time is one of the most important measures of the strength of our communities. For this reason, charity and not-for-profit leaders see the rate at which Australians are prepared to volunteer as a fundamental indicator in achieving the Australia we want to live in.

There are some difficulties in accurately assessing levels of volunteering. For the purpose of this report, the ABS data on volunteering has been used as well as data from the OECD. It is arguable that both sets of data under-estimate volunteering as many Australians volunteer without necessarily acknowledging it (helping out with a sporting team for instance).

Australia

According to the OECD data on the percentage of the working-age population who declared having volunteered through an organisation in the preceding 12 months, Norway, United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands all have volunteering rates above 40%. Australia does, however, rank in the top 10 with a volunteering rate of 39.5%. The OECD average is 34.2%.

The ABS data on volunteering suggests Australians over the age of 18 were volunteering at a rate of 36% in 2010 and in 2014 that rate had dropped to 31%. According to the ABS it is the first time volunteering rates in Australia have declined in the last decade. The data indicates that in 2014 a total of 5,784,400 Australians were active volunteers in the last 12 months.

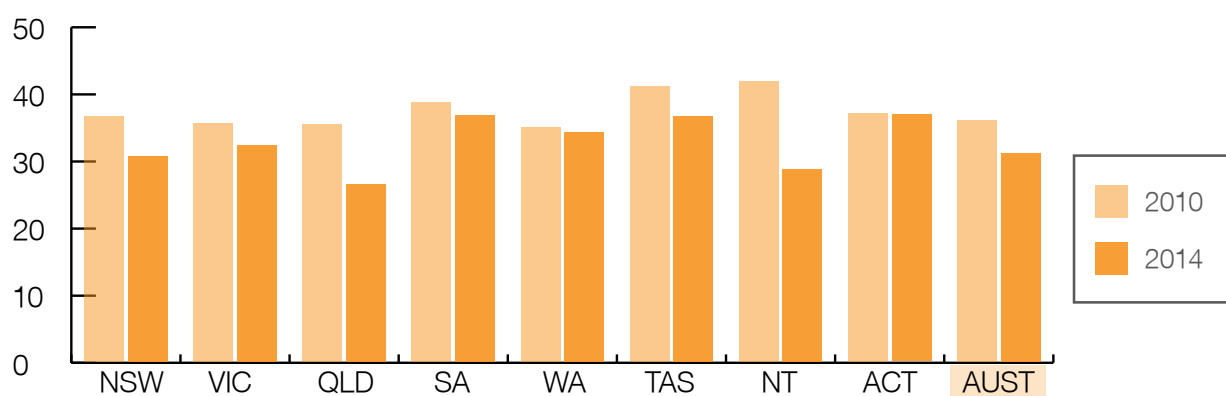
Of those Australians who volunteered, almost two-thirds (63%) did so for one organisation only. Almost a quarter (24%) did voluntary work for two organisations and 14% volunteered for three or more organisations. The most common types of organisations for which people volunteered were those relating to sport and physical recreation (31% of volunteers), education and training (24%), welfare/community (21%) and religious groups (19%). Volunteering rates were highest for people aged 15-17 years.

State and territory

The decline in volunteering over the last five years is reflected in the ABS data on levels of volunteering for each jurisdiction.

Levels of volunteering in the last 12 months as a percentage of population for each jurisdiction

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2010	36.6	35.6	35.4	38.6	34.9	41	41.8	37.1	36
2014	30.6	32.3	26.5	36.7	34.2	36.6	28.7	36.8	31



Findings

While Australia is ranked in the top ten OECD nations for volunteering, it is of concern that the rate of volunteering appears to be in decline across every state and territory. In New South Wales, Queensland, and the Northern Territory the decline in volunteering has pushed their rate below the national average so they score negatively. All other states and territories are scored 0 as they are above the national average, but have a declining rate of volunteering.

Generous, kind, compassionate - volunteering

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Score	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0

4c. generous, kind, compassionate - international development assistance

Australia may be an island, but in a global world where people, capital and information flow relatively freely between countries, Australia is not isolated from the rest of the world. In fact, our future prosperity and wellbeing will depend upon our place in the world. If Australia is to influence the way the world responds to us in a positive way, we need to be seen, not only as good neighbours, but as a country prepared to support others when needed.

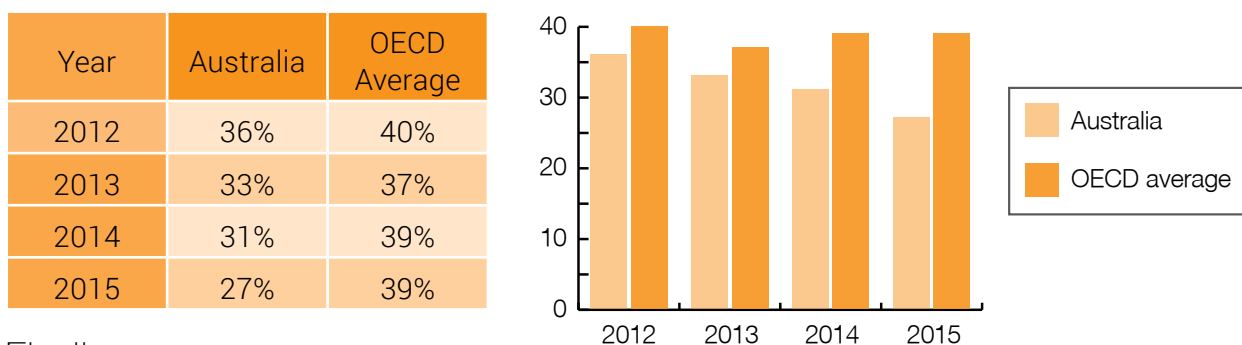
Leaders from across the Australian charities and not-for-profit sector, who often work with the most marginalised communities in Australia, all acknowledged the importance of Australia making a real contribution to our neighbours and countries in need. They recognized that it is in our longer term self-interest to take an active role in supporting international aid and development.

Australia is a very wealthy country by any international comparison. While domestic politics places short term self-interest ahead of many other considerations, the reality is that Australia can afford to make a positive contribution in addressing global issues including poverty, or the alleviation of hunger and disease. Many people in the charities and not-for-profit sector would argue that as a rich country we have a moral obligation to play a positive role in the global village and not be greedy about our wealth.

Australia

The ratio of Australian Official Development Assistance to Gross National Income has fallen by over 20% since 2012. During the same period, the OECD average rate of development assistance has remained relatively stable. Australia is now ranked lower than 17 other comparable OECD countries for generosity based on official government supported international development funding.










Ratio of Australian Official Development Assistance to Gross National Income



Findings

Australia is becoming a more inward looking selfish country less prepared to offer assistance to our neighbors and those in need across the world.

Generous, kind, compassionate: international development assistance

									
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Score	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-1

Conclusion

It is not really surprising that when people have an opportunity to imagine a future Australia that they would like to live in or leave as a legacy for their children, the kinds of values and measures that arise are not about how rich we are, but the levels of fairness, inclusiveness, creativity and compassion across our communities.

Australia is one of the richest countries in the world. We rank in the top two for household wealth. When we look back at the Australia of today, it will be interesting to see if our current generation of leaders has taken the opportunity we have to strengthen our communities and connectedness in ways that create real opportunities for our nation.

The values and indicators outlined in this report provide a framework for exploring, debating and evaluating the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats inherent in the way all of us act - charities, businesses, governments, communities. We can all do more to achieve the Australia we want.

The process of encouraging leaders to think about the future they want for Australia, to become more hard-headed about the values and then translating them into measures, has been a revealing process.

One of the important outcomes of this process is an acknowledgement that charities and not-for-profits can and should play a much more active role in national policy debates about the kind of Australia we want to live in. The media coverage of the first stage of this report has already provided a significant catalyst for rethinking the public discourse around Australia's future.

The findings of this report offer a level of insight into the priorities we need to pursue if we are to make Australia a better place for our children. This is not just about our economy, or our budget bottom line, important as these are. This is about how we apply our wealth, what we create with our time and energy, the kind of communities we live in and our experience of the world.

The next challenge is to consider what role we can all play to achieve better outcomes for all Australians. There are clearly some major gaps between our aspirations and our actual performance. We need to not only own our own futures, but also pay due regard to the goal of delivering real benefits to the communities we live and work in.

CCA will now proactively seek to engage broadly with the not-for-profit, business, government and community sectors to work collaboratively in developing and delivering a strategic policy agenda based on the values and measures outlined in this report.

The Australia We Want will not just happen. What we do today, tomorrow and into our future, shapes our country and our communities. Whether Australia is a better place to live is up to all of us.

The Australia We Want will not just happen. What we do today, tomorrow and into our future, shapes our country and our communities. Whether Australia is a better place to live is up to all of us.

Appendix 1

Participants at the CCA National AusWeWant Roundtable -
April 2015, Canberra

Organisation	Name	Surname	Title
Community Council for Australia	David	Crosbie	CEO
World Vision	Tim	Costello	CEO / Chair, CCA
Drug Arm	Dennis	Young	CEO / CCA Board Member
Hillsong	George	Aghajanian	CEO / CCA Board Member
Life Without Barriers	Claire	Robbs	CEO / CCA Board Member
Lifeline	Jane	Hayden	CEO / CCA Board Member
Musica Viva	Mary Jo	Capps	CEO / CCA Board Member
RSPCA Australia	Heather	Neil	CEO / CCA Board Member
Volunteering Australia	Brett	Williamson	CEO / CCA Board Member
Arab Council Australia	Randa	Kattan	CEO
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	Kon	Karapanagiotidis	CEO
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	David	Locke	Acting Commissioner
Australian Council for International Development	Mark	Carpenter	Business Manager
Australian Health and Hospitals Association	Alison	Verhoeven	CEO
Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre	Murray	Coates	General Manager
Australian Major Performing Arts Group	Bethwyn	Serow	Executive Director
Australian Women Donors Network	Julie	Reilly	CEO
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition	Craig	Comrie	Chairperson
beyondblue	Georgie	Harman	CEO
Charities Aid Foundation	Lisa	Grinham	CEO
Community 21	Peter	Quarmby	Executive Director
Community Colleges Australia	Kate	Davidson	CEO
Community Colleges Australia	Ben	Grushka	Vice-Chair
Community Council for Australia	Emma	Lang	Communications Manager
Community Council for Australia	Deborah	Smith	Director, Partnerships and Communication

Organisation	Name	Surname	Title
Community Sector Banking	Greg	Peel	CEO and Managing Director
Connecting Up	Anne	Gawen	CEO
Equity Trustees	David	Stewart	Business Development Manager
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education	Michael	Thorn	CEO
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education	Sharrin	Wells	CFO
Good Beginnings	Heather	Smith	COO
Good Beginnings	Ann	Nevile	Snr Lecturer, ANU
Hammond Care	Stephen	Judd	CEO
Hillsong	Peter	Ridley	CFO
Horizon Housing	Jason	Cubit	CEO
Life Without Barriers	Tracy	Mackey	National Executive Director, Strategy & Engagement
Life Without Barriers	Cherie	Dewhurst	National Manager Commonwealth Programs and ACT
London Benchmarking Group	Simon	Robinson	LBG Director
Mission Australia	David	Piggott	General Manager Sector Engagement
Muslim Women's Association	Maha	Abdo	CEO
Ntegrity	Richenda	Vermeulen	Founding Director
Origin Foundation	Sean	Barrett	Head of Foundation
Pro Bono Australia	Karen	Mahlab	CEO
Pro Bono Australia	Xavier	Smerdon	Journalist
PwC Australia	Bruce	Papps	Partner
Relationships Australia	Alison	Brook	CEO
SANE	Jack	Heath	CEO
SARRAH	Rod	Wellington	CEO
Save the Children	Paul	Ronalds	CEO
Settlement Services International	Violet	Roumeliotis	CEO
St John Ambulance Australia	Amanda	Power	Finance Manager
St John Ambulance Australia	Belinda	Ding	National Policy Manager
The Smith Family	Anne	Hampshire	Head of Research & Advocacy
YMCA Australia	Ron	Mell	CEO

Appendix 2

References

A selected listing of primary references is below:

(A full listing of references against indicators is available upon request as an Excel Spreadsheet.)

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