

# The Australia we want

SECOND REPORT CANBERRA, MARCH 2019



Just  
fair safe  
inclusive  
equal opportunity  
united  
authentic creative  
confident  
courageous  
optimistic  
compassionate  
generous  
kind



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Contact information:

David Crosbie  
CEO

Community Council for Australia  
E [davidc@communitycouncil.com.au](mailto:davidc@communitycouncil.com.au)  
T 02 6198 3435

[www.communitycouncil.com.au](http://www.communitycouncil.com.au)

# Building flourishing communities

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Writers

David Crosbie, CEO, Community Council for Australia

Axelle Marjolin, Research Officer, Centre for Social Impact

## Partners

Axelle Marjolin, Research Officer at the Centre for Social Impact, provided her expertise as a valuable contribution to this project. CCA thanks the Centre for Social Impact for partnering with us on this important project.

## Supporters

This report reflects the input of the sixty leaders from across the charities and not-for-profit sector who participated in the AusWeWant roundtable in Canberra in 2015. Their input informed all that followed.

CCA members provided important input and editing advice throughout the writing of this report. The knowledge and experience of this diverse membership base ensured the report was well grounded.

Deborah Smith at the Community Council for Australia has worked tirelessly to support this project and enable time to be allocated to preparation of this report.

Tim Costello and the CCA Board Directors contributed great energy and encouragement for all aspects of this project, including this second report.

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# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	2
Introduction	4
Overview from the Rev Tim Costello, Chair, CCA	5
Executive Summary	6
Key Findings – A Brief Discussion	7
Background and developing the measures of the AusWeWant	24
Just, Fair, Safe	27
Inclusive, Equal Opportunity, United, Authentic	35
Creative, Confident, Courageous, Optimistic	45
Generous, Kind, Compassionate	51
Appendices	58

# INTRODUCTION

## What kind of Australia do we want to live in?

This report starts with a simple question: *What kind of Australia do we want to live in?* The Community Council for Australia (CCA) has been framing new policy platforms for the future of the Australian charities and not-for-profit sector over a period of years, not just because we support a stronger sector, but because CCA believes we need to ensure our work builds flourishing communities across Australia.

The first in-depth discussion of how charities contribute to a better Australia was held at 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, values 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 2 – listing of participants). Then Assistant Treasurer Josh Frydenberg attended the event which attracted significant media attention. The ABC AM Radio program described the event as a “council of war - charities and not-for-profits seeking to claim their place in national policy making.”

From this initial meeting, a first report was prepared – the [Australia We Want first report](#).

This first report was a comprehensive assessment of an emerging national agenda for change, providing a benchmark on how Australia was performing against a set of key measures. Each measure indicated the extent to which the core values and goals of the charities and not-for-profit sector were being realised across Australia.

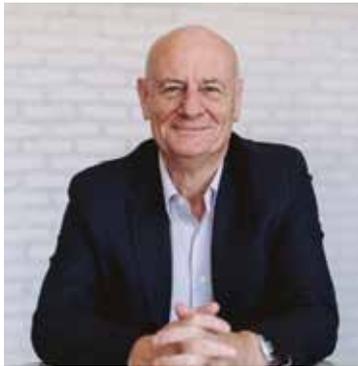
Since the release of the first report at the end of 2016, CCA has been working through a number of solutions forums with leaders in the sector, looking at how organisations can contribute to improving Australian communities. This work is reflected in the ['It Takes a Village – Education is Everyone's Business' campaign to increase Year 12 retention](#).

This second report enables us to look at where we have improved, where we still need to work harder, what we need to focus on if we are to build the kind of Australia we want to live 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.

# OVERVIEW

from the Rev Tim Costello AO, Chair CCA



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?

The Australia we want reports are an exercise in measurement informed by imagination and hope. We have dared to ask fundamental questions about our future: what if we could live in 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?

When we released the first report, I argued that too many of the discussions about Australia's future are focused on our economy, not our lives, our relationships or the country we want to live in. I asked that we think of ourselves as more than passengers in an economy. I think the importance of maintaining our values and building flourishing communities should be the primary focus of our charities sector and the broader community.

This second report provides real insights into how well we are enacting our values. It tells us even more about how we are progressing towards that imagined Australia, and the findings make for interesting reading.

As I have said in many forums over recent years, we welcome anyone who can imagine a better Australia to become 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...**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our productivity, innovation, skills and achievements are actually grounded in flourishing communities within our schools, workplaces, families and local neighbourhoods.

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 second report presents a comprehensive review of Australia's performance against these agreed values-based measures. It is the continuation of a journey to a better Australia, a journey we need to imagine, plan for, enact and monitor. It is about all of us owning the Australia we want.

The charities sector in Australia is committed to building flourishing communities. Our role is to work hard at achieving better outcomes for Australians, to deliver better results on the key indicators outlined in this report. The more people join and support charities in this work, the more effective we can be.

If you want to make a real difference to the kind of Australia we live in, start by talking to the charities working with your community.

# KEY FINDINGS – A BRIEF DISCUSSION

The findings in this report describe progress against key indicators developed to reflect the core values of the Australia we want.

It is important to note at the outset that this is a second report based on an established methodology and set of externally validated indicators that have been reapplied in exactly the same way as in the previous report.

While the trends are generally positive with Australia overall performing slightly better than in the previous report, there are several areas of concern. Incarceration rates, suicide rates, housing unaffordability, levels of giving and levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are all tracking in the wrong direction in this report. Volunteering, educational attainment, and female participation in the workplace are all trending in the right direction. As a consequence of these changes, some jurisdictions, including Victoria and Western Australia, have improved their scores, while others, including the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales, have gone backwards since the first report.

## Below is a brief summary of the findings for Australia and for each jurisdiction

Australia seems to have accepted that our incarceration rates will continue to rise each year. By any international comparison, we lock too many people away in prisons. Our current incarceration rates are almost three times that of Ireland and double most European countries.

It is a similar story with suicide. It is as though we accept that increasing numbers of people dying by suicide is just a part of life in Australia. More people die by suicide than the road toll, terrorism and violence, and most diseases, yet our responses remain largely ad hoc.

Despite misleading claims to the contrary by some politicians and others, our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are actually rising in Australia. Where is our plan to reduce them?

Housing access remains a critical issue for far too many people in Australia and we continue to slip down the international corruption scales.

The idea that Australia is a generous country is not borne out in the data about giving. Levels of giving in Australia are decreasing, despite increased wealth. This sense of a meaner Australia is also reflected in how our very wealthy nation has become less willing to support poor countries around the world.

Similarly, Australia may claim to be a safe place, but the differential between men and women in their feelings of safety walking alone is in the bottom 10%. Women feel a lot less safe than men in Australia – below the OECD average – which is why Australia scores negatively in this area.

The good news is that we are above average compared to other OECD countries in equality of access to employment, education levels, and business and consumer 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

**Tasmania (TAS)** is the best scoring jurisdiction in Australia. It is the leading jurisdiction in achieving gender equity in employment, housing affordability and equality of income distribution. Tasmanians feel relatively safe and have a relatively low incarceration rate. However, it has increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, lowest level of educational attainment and suicide rates are well above the national average.



**Victoria (VIC)** is one of the improvers in this report. It does so mainly because it now has a decreasing suicide rate that is the lowest in the country, and is one of the few jurisdictions to be reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It has the second highest level of educational attainment and second lowest level of incarceration. Unfortunately, Victoria also has the highest gap between male and female workforce participation in Australia and women feel less safe than in most jurisdictions.



**Australian Capital Territory (ACT)** has dropped down from its previous top ranking largely due to a major increase in the suicide rate, increases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and housing unaffordability. It remains a jurisdiction where people feel safest (second to Tasmania), has the lowest imprisonment rate, and highest level of educational attainment in Australia.



**South Australia (SA)** is a mid-ranking jurisdiction in many areas. Housing affordability is better than most jurisdictions, as is the level of volunteering. It has a relatively low level of educational attainment and high levels of incarceration. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are also increasing.



**Queensland (QLD)** has the second highest level of suicide behind the NT, and second lowest levels of volunteering and levels of giving. Perceptions of safety are the third lowest. It has relatively high levels of incarceration above the national average and increasing. Queensland received a positive rating for its relatively low gap between male and female workforce participation, and improving levels of equality in income distribution.



**Western Australia (WA)** is the biggest improver in this report, but still has one of the highest suicide rates in Australia (third behind the Northern Territory and Queensland) and an incarceration rate that is more than 50% higher than the national average. Housing unaffordability is second only to the Australian Capital Territory, and perceptions of feeling unsafe at night are also higher than other States – second only to the Northern Territory. On the positive side, educational attainment is high – second only to the Australian Capital Territory – and levels of volunteering have increased by more than any other jurisdiction bringing Western Australia up to the national average.



Score previous report: -7

**New South Wales (NSW)** is the equal lowest performing jurisdiction mainly because it has the highest level of income inequality in Australia, an increasing suicide rate, increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and a high level of housing unaffordability. Levels of giving are declining but they remain relatively high, educational attainment is better than the national average and increasing.



Score previous report: -1

**Northern Territory (NT)** has improved marginally, but remains the equal lowest performing jurisdiction with a very high incarceration rate – double any other jurisdiction and more than four times the national average. It also has the highest suicide rates – more than 60% above the national average. The Northern Territory is improving in perceptions of safety, levels of giving and volunteering but remains lower than any other jurisdiction in all these areas. Northern Territory is one of only two jurisdictions to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and has less inequality in income distribution than most of Australia.



Score previous report: -3

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. Across Australia there are close to 13,000 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 prisoners were imprisoned because of acts intended to cause injury to others.

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

One in five adult 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 (79%) than the OECD average, but Australian women feel less safe (49%). Women also have more difficulty participating in the workforce and experience a gender pay gap of over 14%.

CCA has still been unable to identify a reliable indicator relating to the level of creative activity in Australia. We will continue to work with the arts sector to identify an appropriate proxy measure as most leaders in the charities and not-for-profit sector recognise the fundamental importance of encouraging and supporting a more creative 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.

It is important to acknowledge that there is often a high level of inter-relationship between the indicators in this report. For instance, lower levels of school completion are associated with higher levels of imprisonment. The relationships between the various indicators should be factored into the framing of responses to the issues highlighted in this report.

Finally, no matter where you live in Australia and what you think is important, the findings in this report matter. They shape the kinds of communities we live in.

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. Together, we can achieve the kind of Australia we want to live in.

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# Just, fair, safe

## By any international comparison, we lock too many people away in prisons

Australia's imprisonment rate:



Indigenous Australians imprisoned at a rate of 11:1 non-Indigenous Australians



4 out of 5 prisoners have not completed Year 12



1 in 3 prisoners live with a disability or long term chronic condition

## We live in communities where women feel less safe than men



1 in 2 women do not feel safe walking alone at night



4 out of 5 men do feel safe walking alone at night



1 in 4 women did not walk in their local area alone after dark; versus 1 in 24 men

## Just below the OECD average, we are not quite as fair as we like to think

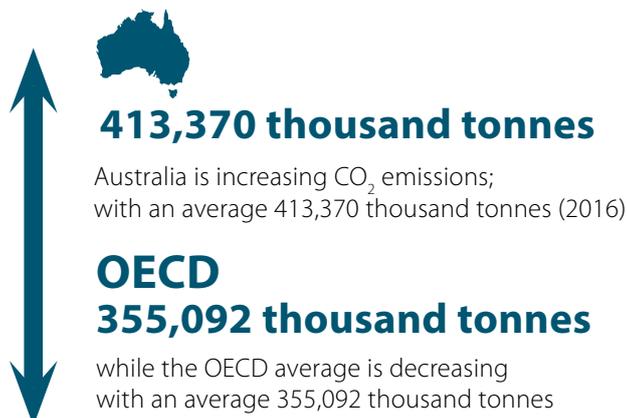
GINI COEFFICIENT  
Total Equality



# Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic



**We value creativity, but are not good at measuring our involvement in the arts. We do well on consumer and business confidence, with room for improvement. The smoke and mirrors of political debate cannot escape the fact that our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are rising. Where is our plan?**



# Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic

## More people die by suicide than the road toll, terrorism and violence, and most diseases



**8+**

On average more than 8 people die by suicide every day



For Australians aged over 17 years, 3 out of 4 suicides are male



Suicide rates for Indigenous people 2x that of non-Indigenous Australians

## Australia continues to slip down international corruption scales

1	NEW ZEALAND	89
2	DENMARK	88
3	FINLAND	85
3	NORWAY	85
3	SWITZERLAND	85
6	SINGAPORE	84
6	SWEDEN	84
8	CANADA	82
8	LUXEMBOURG	82
8	NETHERLANDS	82
8	UNITED KINGDOM	82
12	GERMANY	81
13	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>77</b>

Australia's score of 77 down from 85 in 2012



## Australia does comparatively well on education levels and equality of access to employment, but we could do better. When it comes to pay, we value our women less than our men



1 in 5 adult Australians have not completed Year 12 or equivalent



Gender pay gap 14.6%

## Housing access remains a critical issue for far too many people



Housing costs make up a higher proportion of gross income for those in the lowest quintile - 28%; compared to 20% across Australian households.

# Generous, kind, compassionate

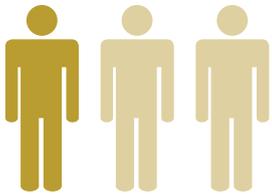
**The idea that Australia is a generous country is not borne out in the data about giving**



**0.36 of 1%**

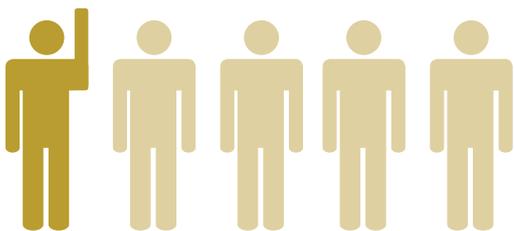
Taxpayers donated on average 0.36% of their taxable income to Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisations

**Down from 0.40%** (2014-15)



Only 1 in 3 taxpayers claimed a deduction for gifts or donations

**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**



1 in 5 Australians volunteer and this number may be higher as many Australians volunteer without necessarily acknowledging it.

**The sense of a meaner Australia is also reflected in how our very wealthy nation has become less willing to support poor countries around the world**



The ratio of Australian Official Development Assistance to Gross National Income has fallen since 2012. Australia is now ranked lower than 18 other OECD countries, despite our relative wealth as a nation.

# THE NATIONAL DASHBOARD

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

**+1** positive result

**0** neutral result

**-1** negative result

		AUS	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	+1
	distribution of income	0	-1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	0	+1
	feeling safe – wellbeing	-1	+1	-1	0	0	0	+1	0	+1
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	-1	0	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	-1
	educational attainment	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	0	-1	0
	transparency	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	employment access	+1	0	-1	+1	0	0	+1	0	0
	housing access	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	+1	0	-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	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	volunteering	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1
	international development assistance	-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>-1</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>+1</b>

# AUSTRALIA

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



- +1** positive result
- 0** neutral result
- 1** negative result

		1st REPORT	2nd REPORT	
Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	High imprisonment rate and increasing	-1	-1
	distribution of income	Inequality above the OECD average	-1	0
	feeling safe – wellbeing	There has been a small increase in overall perception of safety, but the big difference between men and women’s perceptions results in a negative score	0	-1
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	High rate of suicide and increasing	-1	-1
	educational attainment	The rate of educational attainment is improving and above the OECD average	+1	+1
	transparency	Declining levels of transparency but above the OECD average	0	0
	employment access	Female participation increasing and well above the OECD average	+1	+1
	housing access	Overall housing costs close to OECD average but much higher for lowest quintile	0	0
Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic	environmental sustainability	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions are increasing and above the OECD average	-1	-1
	consumer confidence	Consumer confidence generally above the OECD average and the benchmark	-1	+1
	business confidence	Business confidence generally above the OECD average and the benchmark	+1	+1
Generous, kind, compassionate	levels of individual giving	Levels of giving have decreased and are still below pre GFC highs	0	-1
	volunteering	Volunteering increased and is above the OECD average	0	+1
	international development assistance	Development assistance ratio decreasing and well below the OECD average	-1	-1
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>			<b>-3</b>	<b>-1</b>

Australia’s performance has improved with more volunteering and increased confidence, but suicide, levels of giving, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, imprisonment rates and international development assistance still need a lot of work.

# TASMANIA

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – JURISDICTIONS IN RANKING ORDER



- +1** positive result
- 0** neutral result
- 1** negative result

		1sr REPORT	2nd REPORT	
Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	Rate of imprisonment is increasing but below the national average	0	0
	distribution of income	Inequality below the national average and reducing	+1	+1
	feeling safe – wellbeing	Perceptions of feeling safe higher than the national average and increasing	+1	+1
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	Suicide rate decreasing but higher than the national average	0	0
	educational attainment	Very poor rate of educational attainment compared to the national average	-1	0
	transparency		N/A	N/A
	employment access	Female participation increasing and higher than the national average	+1	+1
Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic	housing access	Housing costs decreasing and less than the national average	+1	+1
	environmental sustainability	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions increasing	+1	-1
	consumer confidence		N/A	N/A
Generous, kind, compassionate	business confidence		N/A	N/A
	levels of individual giving	Levels of giving below the national average	0	0
	volunteering	Volunteering increased and is above the national average	0	+1
	international development assistance		N/A	N/A

Tasmania improved slightly in educational attainment and volunteering but had higher CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**TOTAL SCORE +4 +4**

# VICTORIA

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – JURISDICTIONS IN RANKING ORDER



- +1** positive result
- 0** neutral result
- 1** negative result

			1st REPORT	2nd REPORT
Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	Stabilising rate of imprisonment well below the national average	+1	0
	distribution of income	Inequality below the national average but increasing	0	0
	feeling safe – wellbeing	Perceptions of feeling safe are decreasing and below the national average	0	-1
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	Suicide rate decreased and below the national average (previously went up by 20%)	-1	+1
	educational attainment	Rate of educational attainment is just above the national average	0	+1
	transparency		N/A	N/A
	employment access	Female participation rate is significantly lower than the national average	-1	-1
Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic	housing access	Housing costs close to national average for the lowest quintile	0	0
	environmental sustainability	One of only two jurisdictions where CO <sub>2</sub> emissions are decreasing	+1	+1
	consumer confidence		N/A	N/A
Generous, kind, compassionate	business confidence		N/A	N/A
	levels of individual giving	Levels of giving dropped by 20% but still slightly above the national average	+1	0
	volunteering	Volunteering increased and is just above the national average	0	+1
	international development assistance		N/A	N/A

Victoria turned around its suicide rate scores and performed slightly better in volunteering and educational attainment.

**TOTAL SCORE**    **+1**    **+2**

# AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – JURISDICTIONS IN RANKING ORDER

**+1** positive result

**0** neutral result

**-1** negative result



			1st REPORT	2nd REPORT
Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	Stabilising rate of imprisonment well below the national average	+1	+1
	distribution of income	Inequality reducing and below the national average	+1	+1
	feeling safe – wellbeing	Perceptions of feeling safe increasing and higher than the national average	+1	+1
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	Suicide rate increased significantly	+1	-1
	educational attainment	Educational attainment has slipped but is still well above the national average	+1	0
	transparency		N/A	N/A
	employment access	Female participation has decreased slightly but is higher than the national average	+1	0
Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic	housing access	Housing costs above the national average for the lowest quintile	-1	-1
	environmental sustainability	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions increasing	+1	-1
	consumer confidence		N/A	N/A
Generous, kind, compassionate	business confidence		N/A	N/A
	levels of individual giving	Levels of giving decreased but are above the national average	+1	0
	volunteering	Volunteering increased and is above the national average	0	+1
	international development assistance		N/A	N/A

Increasing suicide rates and high housing costs are amongst the indicators to go backwards for the Australian Capital Territory. Australian Capital Territory is no longer the best performing jurisdiction.

**TOTAL SCORE** **+7** **+1**

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – JURISDICTIONS IN RANKING ORDER

**+1** positive result

**0** neutral result

**-1** negative result

			1st REPORT	2nd REPORT
Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	Increasing rate of imprisonment above the national average	-1	-1
	distribution of income	Inequality below the national average but is increasing	+1	0
	feeling safe – wellbeing	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing but still below the national average	0	0
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	Suicide rate has decreased and is only slightly above the national average	-1	+1
	educational attainment	Rate of educational attainment is improving but well below the national average	-1	0
	transparency		N/A	N/A
	employment access	Female participation rate increasing and higher than the national average	+1	0
	housing access	Housing costs increasing but well below the national average	0	0
Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic	environmental sustainability	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions increasing	+1	-1
	consumer confidence		N/A	N/A
	business confidence		N/A	N/A
Generous, kind, compassionate	levels of individual giving	Levels of giving increased but still below the national average	-1	0
	volunteering	Volunteering increased above the national average	0	+1
	international development assistance		N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>			<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>

Slightly better than last report – less suicides and increased volunteering.

**TOTAL SCORE -1 0**

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – JURISDICTIONS IN RANKING ORDER

**+1** positive result

**0** neutral result

**-1** negative result



			1st REPORT	2nd REPORT
Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	Imprisonment rate 50% higher than the national average and increasing	-1	-1
	distribution of income	Inequality decreasing and lower than the national average	-1	+1
	feeling safe – wellbeing	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing but below the national average	0	0
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	Increase in suicide rates and above the national average	-1	-1
	educational attainment	Increasing rate of educational attainment just above the national average	0	+1
	transparency		N/A	N/A
	employment access	Female participation rate has increased but is still below the national average	-1	0
Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic	housing access	Housing costs increasing and above the national average	-1	-1
	environmental sustainability	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions increasing	-1	-1
	consumer confidence		N/A	N/A
Generous, kind, compassionate	business confidence		N/A	N/A
	levels of individual giving	Levels of giving increased but still below the national average	-1	0
	volunteering	Volunteering increased and is now at the national average	0	+1
	international development assistance		N/A	N/A

Significant improvements in volunteering, reducing inequality and improving education have increased Western Australia's score since the last report.

**TOTAL SCORE** **-7** **-1**

# QUEENSLAND

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – JURISDICTIONS IN RANKING ORDER

**+1** positive result

**0** neutral result

**-1** negative result



Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	Increasing rate of imprisonment above the national average	-1	-1
	distribution of income	Inequality decreasing and below the national average	0	+1
	feeling safe – wellbeing	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing – now close to the national average	0	0
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	Suicide rate increased significantly and is above the national average	0	-1
	educational attainment	Rate of educational attainment very close to the national average	0	0
	transparency		N/A	N/A
	employment access	Female participation rate increasing and higher than the national average	+1	+1
Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic	housing access	Housing costs decreasing and now at the national average	-1	0
	environmental sustainability	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions increasing	+1	-1
	consumer confidence		N/A	N/A
	business confidence		N/A	N/A
Generous, kind, compassionate	levels of individual giving	Levels of giving have stayed the same but are well below the national average	-1	0
	volunteering	Volunteering increased slightly but still below the national average	-1	0
	international development assistance		N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>			<b>-2</b>	<b>-1</b>

Improved on some areas, but went backwards in suicide, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

# NEW SOUTH WALES

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – JURISDICTIONS IN RANKING ORDER



**+1** positive result

**0** neutral result

**-1** negative result

**1st REPORT**    **2nd REPORT**

Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	Increasing rate of imprisonment above the national average	-1	-1
	distribution of income	Despite a small improvement, inequality is the highest in Australia	-1	-1
	feeling safe – wellbeing	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing and above the national average	0	+1
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	Increasing suicide rate but below the national average	0	0
	educational attainment	Rate of educational attainment improving and slightly above the national average	0	+1
	transparency		N/A	N/A
	employment access	Female participation rate increasing but only just below the national average	0	0
Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic	housing access	Housing costs increasing and now above the national average	0	-1
	environmental sustainability	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions increasing	+1	-1
	consumer confidence		N/A	N/A
Generous, kind, compassionate	business confidence		N/A	N/A
	levels of individual giving	Levels of giving decreasing but still slightly above the national average	+1	0
	volunteering	Volunteering increased but still below the national average	-1	0
	international development assistance		N/A	N/A

Improving, but worse in key areas like CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, housing, levels of giving.

**TOTAL SCORE**    **-1**    **-2**

# NORTHERN TERRITORY

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – JURISDICTIONS IN RANKING ORDER



**+1** positive result

**0** neutral result

**-1** negative result

			1st REPORT	2nd REPORT
Just, fair, safe	incarceration rates	Imprisonment rate four times the national average and increasing	-1	-1
	distribution of income	Inequality increased but below the national average	+1	0
	feeling safe – wellbeing	Perceptions of feeling safe are increasing but well below the national average	0	0
Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic	suicide rates	Increasing suicide rates and well above the national average	-1	-1
	educational attainment	Educational attainment decreasing and worse than the national average	0	-1
	transparency		N/A	N/A
	employment access	Female participation rate higher than the national average but not really increasing	0	0
Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic	housing access	Housing costs decreasing – now at the national average	-1	0
	environmental sustainability	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions decreasing	+1	+1
	consumer confidence		N/A	N/A
Generous, kind, compassionate	business confidence		N/A	N/A
	levels of individual giving	Levels of giving increased slightly but well below the national average	-1	0
	volunteering	Volunteering increased but still below the national average	-1	0
	international development assistance		N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>			<b>-3</b>	<b>-2</b>

Slight improvements across a range of areas since the last report, but still a lot of work to do in reducing incarceration and suicide.

**TOTAL SCORE -3 -2**

# 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](http://www.communitycouncil.com.au) for a list of CCA Members.

## The charities and not-for-profit sector

The charities and not-for-profit sector encompasses over 600,000 organisations - from large to very small, and employs well over one million staff (around 10% of all employees in Australia). Australia's 55,000+ charities collectively turn over more than \$140 billion each year and hold over \$200 billion in assets. In the last decade, sector growth has continued at more than 7% a year, a figure that is higher than any other industry group.

These facts tell only a small part of the story. The real value of the NFP sector is often in the unmeasured contribution to Australian quality of life. NFPs are at the heart of our communities; building connection, nurturing spiritual and cultural expression, and enhancing the productivity of all Australians. Collectively, they make us a more resilient society.

The importance of the NFP sector is now being internationally recognised with many governments putting in place measures to increase NFP investment and productivity. Smaller government and bigger community is a common theme, driven in part by savings, but also by a commitment to strengthening democracy through greater civic engagement, providing incentives for social entrepreneurship and boosting productivity within the NFP sector.

While the immediate history of the NFP sector is framed by growth and reform, new issues are emerging. The level of individual philanthropic giving as a percentage of income has still not recovered to the highs of 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. Competition for fundraising and services has increased.

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 second report adopts exactly the same methodology as the first report, drawing on externally validated indicators to provide a snapshot of how well Australia is enacting core values prioritised by charity sector leaders. It is anticipated CCA will continue to produce these reports into the future, as well as continue to support solutions that improve our performance against each indicator.

The following section provides more detailed information about the findings for each indicator.

# 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 measures of the kind of society we want to live in. To make our words meaningful, leaders from the not-for-profit sector identified the measures outlined in this section as indicators for each of these values.

## 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. It is important to note that imprisonment rates are about the percentage of the population in prison, not just the number of prisoners. There is no reason why rates of imprisonment should vary over time, even if populations increase or decrease in size.

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 a 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. Less than 25% of the prison population are in custody because of acts intended to cause injury to others.

### Australia

The number of prisoners in Australia rose by six percent in 2017 from 38,845 prisoners in June 2016 to 41,202 in June 2017. The rate of imprisonment grew by four percent. Our rate of incarceration is 216 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 600 per 100,000).

Key issues of concern arising from our incarceration rates include:

- the number of un-sentenced prisoners in custody continued to grow with 12,911 in prison in June 2017;
- the medium time in remand awaiting trial and or sentence continues to increase with the average time rising to 3.3 months;
- the incarceration rate of adult Indigenous people is now 2,434 per 100,000, which is more than 11 times the imprisonment rate of non-Indigenous Australians;
- Indigenous people make up 27% of the total prison population despite being only 2% of the total population with increasing numbers of Indigenous women prisoners emerging as a major issue;
- 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
2016	211	138	206	219	314	141	923	144	208
2017	216	145	222	224	340	146	878	141	216

Three jurisdictions have imprisonment rates significantly lower than the national average: Tasmania, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. Despite a small fall in imprisonment rates, the Northern Territory imprisons people at four times the national average while Western Australia imprisonment rates are more than 50% higher than the national average – this is partly explained by higher Indigenous populations. New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia are all equal to or slightly above the national average. The Australian Capital Territory has slightly reduced imprisonment rates.

## Findings

Australia has a relatively high imprisonment rate in comparison with most other countries.

Our imprisonment rate continues to increase 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. The Australian Capital Territory is the only jurisdiction with a positive rating. Tasmania and Victoria have a relatively low rate of imprisonment that has increased only marginally and therefore achieve neutral ratings. The Northern Territory has reduced rates but is still four times the national average. All other jurisdictions have increasing rates equal to or above the national rate.

## Just, fair, safe – incarceration rates



ABS. 4517.0 – 'Prisoners in Australia, 2018'. released 6th December 2018.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4517.0>

## 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.

It is important to note that individual and household wealth are not always reflected in income figures as many high wealth households minimise their taxable income.

### 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 ABS, Australia's income inequality has remained stable since 2013-14, with a reported GINI coefficient of 32.3 in 2015-16 (ABS 2017c). It remains nonetheless higher than the OECD average of 31.7 in 2015, the latest year for which data is available (ACOSS and UNSW Sydney 2018).

Although income inequality remained steady between 2013-14 and 2015-16, there is still a considerable difference in income between low, middle and high income households. In 2015-16, low income households had a mean income of \$421 per week, compared to \$856 and \$2,009 per week for medium and high income households respectively (ABS 2017a).

Key factors in the distribution of income across Australia include:

- In 2015-16, over 70% of low income households relied on government pensions and allowances as their main source of income. In contrast, employee income was the main source of income for middle and high income households (ABS 2017b);
- Older people, people who are unemployed and single parents are amongst those more likely to be in the lowest 20% of incomes (ACOSS and UNSW Sydney 2018).

### State and territory

State and territory GINI coefficients (ABS)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2013-14	34.5	31.4	32.5	29.1	37.1	28.1	26.8	27.2	33.3
2015-16	34.1	32.3	30.1	30.9	31.3	26.3	29.3	26.6	32.3

Income inequality increased in Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory between 2013-14 and 2015-16, although all these states and territories had a GINI coefficient at or lower than the national average in both years.

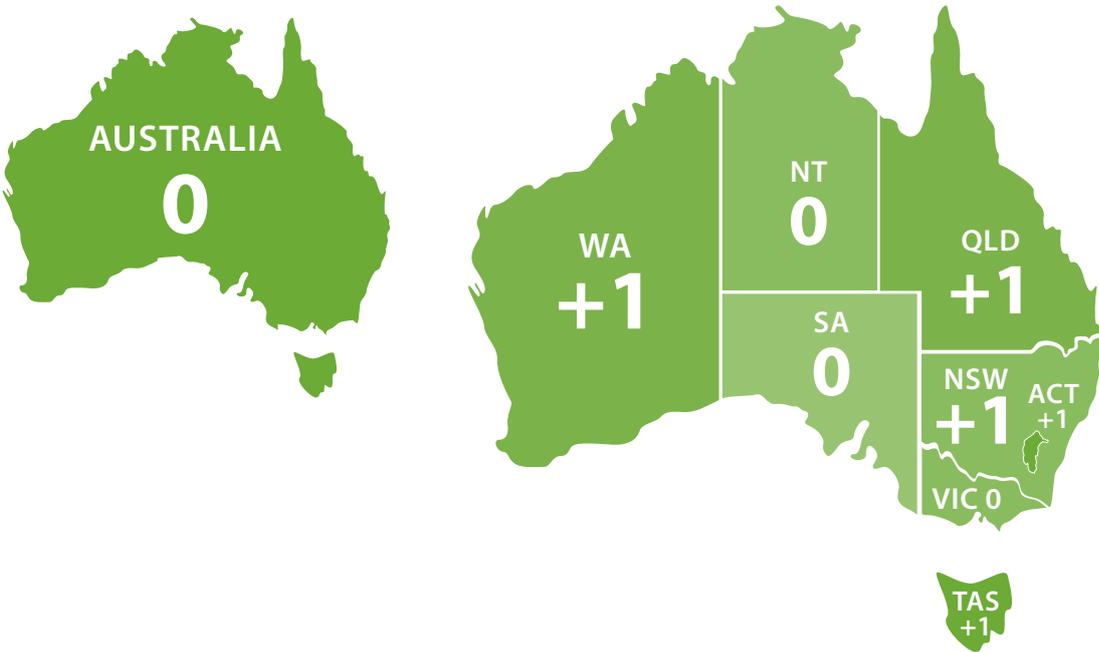
Inequality decreased in all other jurisdictions between the two years. Still, in NSW income inequality remained well above the national average in 2015-16.

**Findings**

Australia’s GINI coefficient has decreased between 2013-14 and 2015-16, indicating declining inequality in the distribution of income. Still, Australia’s GINI coefficient is higher than that of the OECD. On this basis Australia receives a neutral score.

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, South Australia and the Northern Territory have a GINI coefficient at or below the national average, but increasing between 2013-14 and 2015-16. New South Wales gets a negative rating in spite of the marginal decrease, as its GINI coefficient remained well above the national average in both years.

**Just, fair, safe – distribution of income**



ABS. 2017a. 'Changes in Income over Time'. 13 September 2017. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/6523.0~2015-16~Main%20Features~Changes%20in%20Income%20Over%20Time~9>.

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———. 2017c. 'Inequality Stable since 2013-14 (Media Release)'. 13 September 2017. [http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/6523.0~2015-16~Media%20Release~Inequality%20stable%20since%202013-14%20%20\(Media%20Release\)~103](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/6523.0~2015-16~Media%20Release~Inequality%20stable%20since%202013-14%20%20(Media%20Release)~103).

ACOSS and UNSW Sydney. 2018. 'Inequality in Australia 2018'.

GREENVILLE, J., POBKE, C. & ROGERS, N. 2013. Trends in the distribution of income in Australia. Productivity Commission Staff Working Paper. Canberra.

O’SULLIVAN, A. & SHEFFRIN, S. M. 2003. Economics: Principles in action, Upper Saddle Rive, New Jersey 07458, Pearson Prentice Hall.

## 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.

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 2015).

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 2017, according to the OECD, 64% of people in Australia reported feeling safe when walking alone at night. This is a lower proportion compared to the OECD average of 69% in the same year. This is particularly pronounced for women, with only 49% of women in Australia reporting feeling safe – much below the OECD average of 61% for women. On the other hand, 79% of men in Australia reported feeling safe, higher than the OECD average of 77% 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);
- Of all the OECD countries, Australia has the highest differential between the perceived safety of women and men. At least half the women in Australia do not feel safe walking alone at night;
- The OECD figures are reinforced in the ABS findings about walking alone at night which found that in 2016, an estimated one in four women (26%) did not walk in their local area alone after dark in the last 12 months because they felt unsafe compared to one in twenty-four men (4.2%).

### State and territory

State and territory - feeling of safety<sup>1</sup> - women who felt unsafe (percentage of population)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2012	23.5	27.1	26.8	30.3	31.8	22.3	40.0	23.7	26.5
2016	23.2	27.7	25.6	27.1	27.7	19.5	33.9	20.3	25.6

<sup>1</sup> Did not walk alone because felt unsafe = women (ABS Personal Safety Australia 2016)

All states and territories except Victoria had an increase in the proportion of women reporting feeling safe between 2012 and 2016. However, in 2016, the proportion of women reporting feeling safe in South Australia, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Victoria was below the national average.

**Findings**

While feelings of safety in Australia have very marginally increased between 2015 and 2017, the fact that Australia has the highest differential between men and women in their perception of safety and is below the OECD average means Australia is scored negatively.

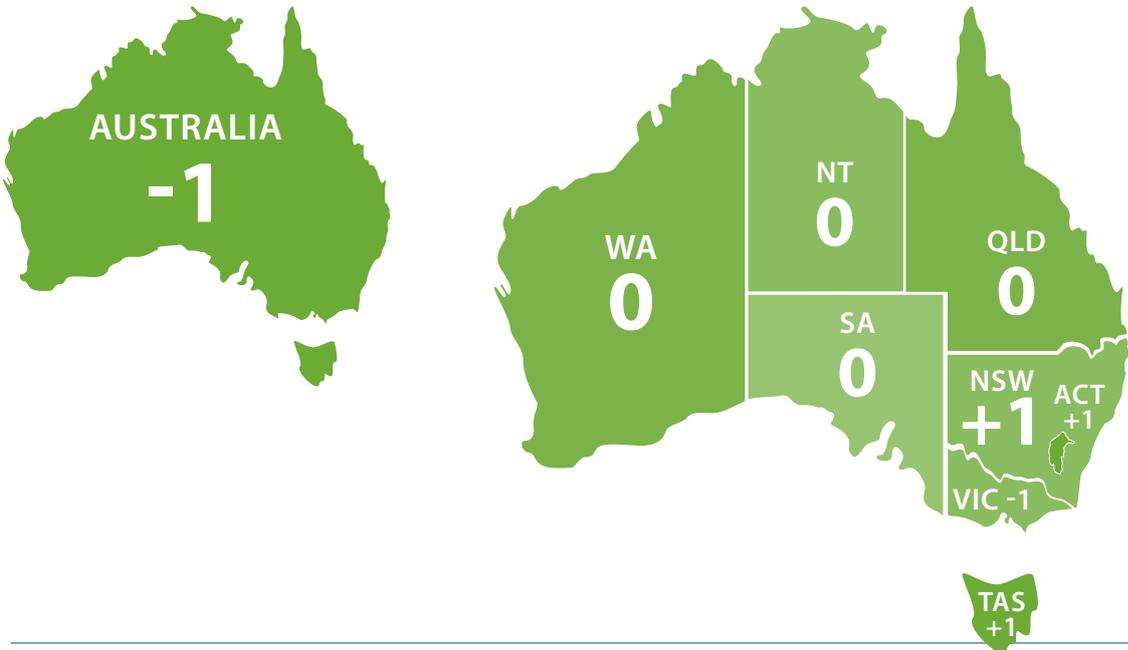
States and territories are ranked according to the proportion of women that feel safe walking alone at night with data available for 2012 and 2016. To obtain a positive rating, jurisdictions must have a proportion of women reporting feeling safe higher than the national average and increasing over time at a level significantly higher than the national average.

Victoria receives a negative result as the perception of safety amongst women is diminishing and is below the national average.

Women in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Tasmania feel safer than the national average at increasing levels. They all achieved a positive score.

All other states and territories achieved a reduction in the proportion of women feeling unsafe, but remain at or above the national average. They receive a score of 0.

**Just, fair, safe – feeling safe – wellbeing**



ABS 4906.0 – ‘Personal Safety, Australia, 2016’ released 8th of November, 2017  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4906.02016?OpenDocument>  
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 ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. Better Life Index: <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/topics/safety/>

# 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 included in this section 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 suicide ideation. 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 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 in better identifying and reporting 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 simply 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

In 2017, 2349 males and 779 females died by suicide. This is an increase of 262 on the previous year. The rate of suicide (suicide per head of population) also increased in the last 12 months and is now as high as it has been over the last decade at 12.6 deaths per 100,000 per annum.

On average in Australia in 2017, 8.6 people suicided every day.

Key factors in the suicide rates across Australia include:

- Suicide is the leading cause of death amongst Australians aged 15-44 and the second leading cause of death amongst those aged 45-54;
- Suicide is the leading cause of premature mortality in Australia with an average of over 34.5 years of life lost for each suicide;
- Suicide accounted for more than one-third of deaths (36%) among people aged 15-24 and over a quarter of deaths (30.9%) among those aged 25-34;
- Suicide rates for Indigenous people are double that of non-Indigenous Australians;
- 75% of all suicides across all age groups - except for those aged less than 17 - are male.

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. According to the World Health Organisation, Australia is in the highest one third out of 183 countries 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 population (ABS)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2016	10.3	9.9	13.9	13.3	14.4	17.0	19.3	7.2	11.7
2017	10.9	9.6	16.3	12.8	15.8	15.6	20.3	14.1	12.6

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.

The Tasmanian suicide rate has reduced but is still high compared to the national average.

The increase in the Australian Capital Territory is the largest (over 95%), although 2016 was an exceptionally low rate.

Queensland, Western Australia, and Northern Territory also increased their suicide rates and are all well above the national average.

New South Wales has its highest rate of suicide for over 10 years but is still below the national average.

South Australia has reduced its rate and is close to the national average. Victoria has also reduced its rate and is below the national average after previously having increasing rates.

## 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 and whether the rate is above or below the national average. Where the suicide rate is more than 20% above the national average, a negative rating is given. Where the rate is increasing but is below the national average a neutral score is given. South Australia achieved a positive rating because its rate has been consistently reducing over the last four years and is now close to the national average.

## Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic – suicide rates



ABS 3303.0 – 'Causes of Death, Australia, 2017' released 26th of September 2018  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/3303.0~2017~Main%20Features~Intentional%20self-harm,%20key%20characteristics~3>

## 2B) INCLUSIVE, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, UNITED, AUTHENTIC Educational attainment

Educational attainment has been acknowledged as having an impact on many 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 2015).

However, not everyone gets an equal opportunity when it comes to educational attainment, or experiencing equal access to education. 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.

### Australia

In 2014, 23% of adults aged 25 to 64 in Australia had a highest level of educational attainment equivalent to below secondary according to the OECD, an improvement from the 2010 Australian figure of 27% and a lower rate than the OECD 2014 average of 24%. The latest OECD figures show that in 2017, this further declined to 19% in Australia, and an average of 21% for OECD countries.

For the purposes of this report, the ABS figures on educational attainment have been the primary reference point to enable more accurate state and territory comparisons. Within this data – outlined below - it is a concern that in 2016, the proportion of adult females aged 15 to 74 (25.8%) that did not complete secondary education was larger than the proportion of males in the same age group (24.0%). This trend persisted in 2017 (24.5% for females; 22.8% for males) (ABS 2018)

### State and territory

Percentage of adult Australians with Year 11 or below as their highest level of education (ABS)

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
2016	24.7	24.7	25.9	29.9	24.8	36.0	25.5	14.4	25.4
2017	24.5	24.0	25.4	29.0	23.6	33.2	26.4	15.4	24.8

All states and territories had a decrease in the percentage of adult Australians with Year 11 or below as their highest level of education between 2016 and 2017, except for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory all had rates above the national average. The base rate of educational attainment may partly be explained by age (older people tended to leave school earlier) and other demographics.

## 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 below or above 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 lower than the national average and decreasing over time at a level significantly below the national average.

Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania all had rates above the national average, but had decreasing rates of poor educational attainment, so were scored a 0. The Northern Territory was not only above the national average, but also had an increase in the rate of poor educational attainment resulting in a negative score.

The Australian Capital Territory has an increasing rate, but was well below the national average.

Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria all had decreasing rates of poor educational attainment and were below the national average resulting in positive scores.

## Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic - educational attainment



ABS 6227.0 – 'Education and Work, Australia, May 2018' released 8th of November 2018  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6227.0Explanatory%20Notes1May%202018?OpenDocument>

CONSIDINE, G. & ZAPPALA, G. Factors influencing the educational performance of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In: EARDLY, T. & BRADBURY, B., eds. Competing visions: Refereed proceedings of the National Social Policy Conference 2001, 2002. Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, 91-107.

GOSS, P., SONNEMANN, J., CHRISHOLM, C. & NELSON, L. 2016. Widening gaps: what NAPLAN tells us about student progress. Grattan Institute.

## 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, enjoy higher levels of trust in institutions, 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 index uses a scale ranging from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates a country's public sector is perceived as highly corrupt, and 100 as very clean.

The 2018 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 77, down from 85 in 2012, 81 in 2013 and 80 in 2014.

Australia is now ranked 13th out of the 180 countries included in the Corruption Perception Index – down six positions since 2012, and joining countries like Libya, Brazil, Chile, Malta and Turkey as big decliners over that period.

The highest ranked country is New Zealand with Denmark ranked second. Australia can and should do better given it claims to be an open participatory democracy.

### 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 160 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 eight percent since 2012. For this reason, Australia scores a zero on transparency and perceptions of corruption.

## Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic - transparency



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Transparency International 'Corruptions Perceptions Index 2017' released 21st of February 2018. [https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption\\_perceptions\\_index\\_2017?gclid=EAlalQobChMI1q3zn9Kj4QIVwhOPCh2Gegq2EAYASAAEgKfCPD\\_BwE#table](https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2017?gclid=EAlalQobChMI1q3zn9Kj4QIVwhOPCh2Gegq2EAYASAAEgKfCPD_BwE#table)

## 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

In 2014, Australia's total employment to population ratio was 60.8%; higher than that of the OECD average of 55.6% in the same year. Australia's total employment to population ratio has further improved, reaching 61.5% in 2017, compared to the OECD average of 56.8% (OECD n.d.).

The gap between male and female employment as a ratio of their respective population has also improved, decreasing from 11 percentage points in 2014 to 10.3 percentage points in 2017. In contrast, the OECD average gap between male and female employment increased from 15.7 percentage points to 16.1 percentage points (OECD n.d.).

Key concerns in employment access across Australia include:

- While the gap in employment to population ratio by gender is decreasing in Australia, females still make up a higher proportion of part-time employees, than full-time employees (ABS 2018);
- Although on the decline since 2014, the gender pay gap remained at 14.6% in May 2018 (WGEA 2018).

### 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
2017	11.1	11.5	8.9	8.6	12.7	8.5	9.4	5.9	10.6
2018	9.9	11.2	8.5	8.8	10.6	5.7	8.0	6.4	9.7

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

Still, with the exception of South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, all jurisdictions experienced a decreased in the gap in employment to population ratio by gender. It is important to note that the decrease in the gap for the Northern Territory is driven not by 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.

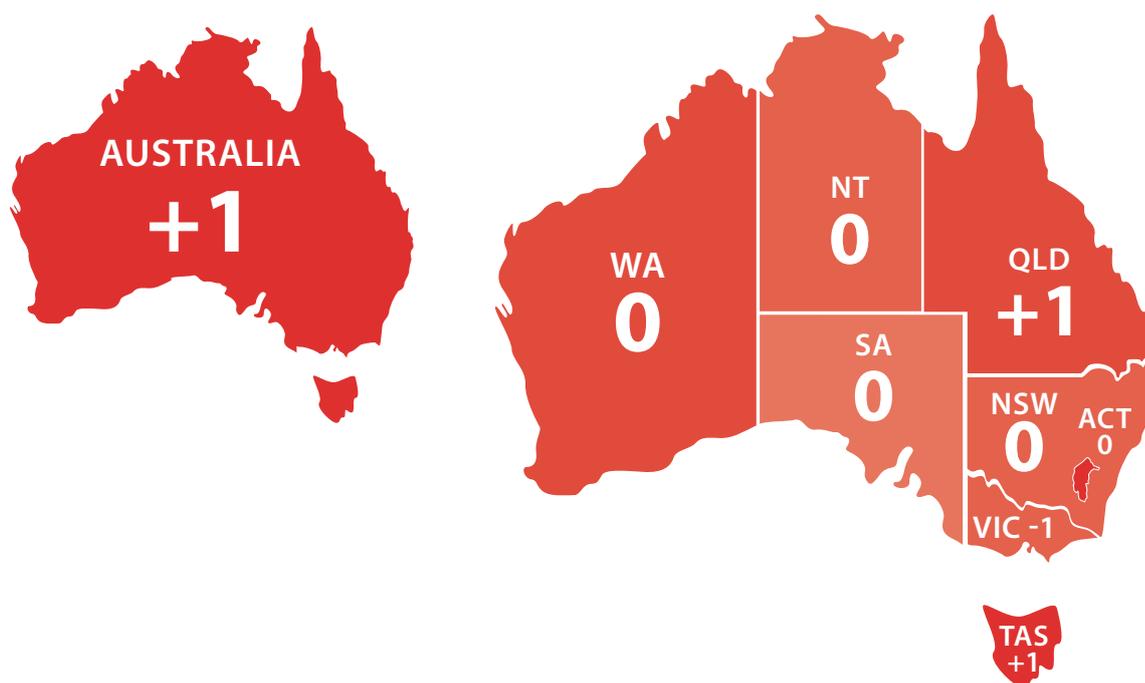
States and territories are ranked according to whether the gap between male and female employment to their respective population ratio is lower than the national average, and whether it is getting smaller or wider. To obtain a positive rating, they must have a gap between male and female employment to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

Queensland, and Tasmania score positively as their gap is below the national average and decreasing over time.

New South Wales and Western Australia have significantly reduced their gap, but are above the national average and therefore receive a neutral score. Victoria has only marginally reduced its gap, is the worst performing state with a gap well above the national average, and therefore receives a negative score.

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. South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory are also given a neutral score since their gap has increased but remains below the national average.

## Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic - employment access



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OECD. n.d. 'LFS - Sex and Age Indicators'. OECD.Stat. Accessed 8 November 2018. <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCo>

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## 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 2015) 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 latest available OECD figures, Australia’s housing expenditure as a percentage of the household gross adjusted disposable income averaged 20% in 2015. This is a similar rate to 2013 and 2012 and is just below the OECD average of 21%<sup>2</sup> (OECD n.d.).

Key concerns in housing access across Australia include:

- Housing costs make up a higher proportion of gross income for households in the lowest income quintile in Australia, compared to both higher income households and the average across all households (ABS 2017);
- Although on average housing costs remained the same between 2013–14 and 2015–16 for renters, people renting from state and territory government housing authorities experienced a 10% increase in real terms in housing costs (ABS 2017);
- Just under half of all households in Australia with a mortgage were classified as over-indebted, that is having liabilities equal to 3 or more years of disposable income (ABS 2018).

### 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
2013-14	27	26	31	22	29	20	29	29	27
2015-16	29	27	28	26	31	19	28	32	28

Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania are the only jurisdictions with a housing cost to income ratio for the lowest quintile lower than the national average in 2015-16. All other states and territories were at or above the Australian average that year.

Except for Queensland, Northern Territory and Tasmania, all other states and territories experienced an increase in housing costs as a proportion of gross income for the lowest quintile between 2013-14 and 2015-16.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the OECD average was computed manually from individual country OECD data on housing expenditure as a percentage of the household gross adjusted disposable income

## Findings

With a rate just under the OECD average but not improving, 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 2013-14 and 2015-16.

Victoria and South Australia are both below the national average, but housing cost ratios have increased slightly over the two years; as such they are scored 0. Queensland and the Northern Territory also receive a 0 for being at the national average in 2015-16, but having experienced a decrease compared to 2013-14.

New South Wales, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory are scored negatively due to increased cost of housing ratios above the national average.

## Inclusive, equal opportunity, united, authentic - housing access



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS. 2015. Housing occupancy and costs.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS 2017. Housing Occupancy and Costs, 2015-16. Housing Occupancy and Costs cat no. 4130.0

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS 2018. Household Income and Wealth, Australia, 2015-16 cat no. 6523.0

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE 2013. Housing assistance in Australia 2013, cat. no. HOU 271. Canberra: AIHW.

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ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT 2011. How's life?: Measuring well-being. OECD.

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# 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 other's shoes and understand beyond our own limited experiences

## 3A) 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. Environmental sustainability is increasingly being recognised as important, for example, through the introduction of 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions are a "major contributor to the enhanced greenhouse effect" and "is a key factor in countries' ability to deal with climate change"(OECD 2015). According to the OECD, Australia's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were 398,164 thousand tonnes in 2013, higher than the OECD average of 362,659 thousand tonnes.<sup>3,4</sup> In 2016, Australia's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions had increased to 413,370 and was still higher than the OECD average of 355,092 thousand tonnes<sup>5</sup> that year (OECD n.d.).

Key issues of concern arising from our environmental sustainability include:

- Australia's level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is higher than the OECD average;
- Australia's level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is increasing, while the OECD average is decreasing, although this could be partly due to countries with significant level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions such as Korea and Mexico not reporting in 2016.

### State and territory

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

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST <sup>6</sup>
2015	99,409.5	102,422.8	95,819.8	21,287.8	70,829.9	5,009.3	6,176.7	1,065.3	50,252.6
2016	103,029.4	100,461.5	100,653.0	21,469.4	74,275.0	5,196.1	6,145.1	1,121.3	51,543.9

South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory all have CO<sub>2</sub> emissions lower than the national average. However, it is worth noting that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be expected to be higher in more densely populated states and territories.

3 Note that the OECD average was computed manually from individual country OECD data on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

4 The numbers reported here for 2013 have been revised from those from the previous report as no updated data was available from the source used previously, the 'Environment at a glance' report series. New figures are from the OECD Greenhouse Gas Emissions dataset. Figures differ slightly due to differences in calculations.

5 Note that the OECD average was computed manually from individual country OECD data on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

6 Note that the Australian average was computed manually from individual state and territory data on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Australian Greenhouse Emissions Information System (AEGIS)

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are decreasing or increasing over time. The size of the difference and whether the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by state and territory is below or above the national average is not taken into account in scoring as population levels and density can disproportionately impact levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The Northern Territory and Victoria are the only jurisdictions to be scored positively due to a decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions between 2015 and 2016.

Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic  
– environmental sustainability



OECD. 2015. 'Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Emissions'. In Environment at a Glance 2015: OECD Indicators. Paris: OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264235199-5-en>.

———. n.d. 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions'. OECD.Stat. Accessed 8 November 2018. [https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=AIR\\_GHG](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=AIR_GHG).

## 3B+C) 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 recovered 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.

Australia's CCI also improved in the last 12 months, rising from 99.7 in February 2017 to 100.2 in February 2018. Consumer confidence in Australia remained lower than the OECD average which was 101.1 in February 2018.

In contrast, Australia's business confidence was lower in February 2018, compared to a year prior (101.1 and 101.6 respectively) but remained above the OECD average in both years.

It can be a concern that when the CCI is above 100, it signals a positive attitude towards economic prospects which may result in households being less prone to save. Lack of savings may further compound already prevalent issues of over-indebtedness for some households.

### State and territory

No comparable data is available at the state and territory level

## Findings

With a rate below the OECD average but above the index benchmark and increasing over 2017 levels, Australia is scored positively 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



Creative, confident, courageous, optimistic  
– business confidence



**Averaging these two scores, we give Australia a positive finding on this confidence indicator.**

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ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. 2016a. Business confidence index (BCI) (indicator) [Online].

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. 2016b. Consumer confidence index (CCI) (indicator) [Online].

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. 2018. Business confidence index (BCI) (indicator) [Online].

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. 2018. Consumer confidence index (CCI) (indicator) [Online].



## 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, and various new on-line giving platforms. 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

Australian tax payers donated on average 0.36% of their taxable income to Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisations in 2015-16. This represents a slight decrease from 0.40% in 2014-15.

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. Therefore, 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 decreased from around \$3.1 billion in 2014-15 to \$2.9 billion in 2015-2016. The percentage of Australian taxpayers claiming a deduction for gifts or donations has also declined to approximately 33%, from 35% in 2014-15.

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
2014-15	0.49%	0.51%	0.26%	0.29%	0.25%	0.32%	0.21%	0.44%	0.40%
2015-16	0.42%	0.41%	0.26%	0.32%	0.29%	0.35%	0.22%	0.41%	0.36%

## Findings

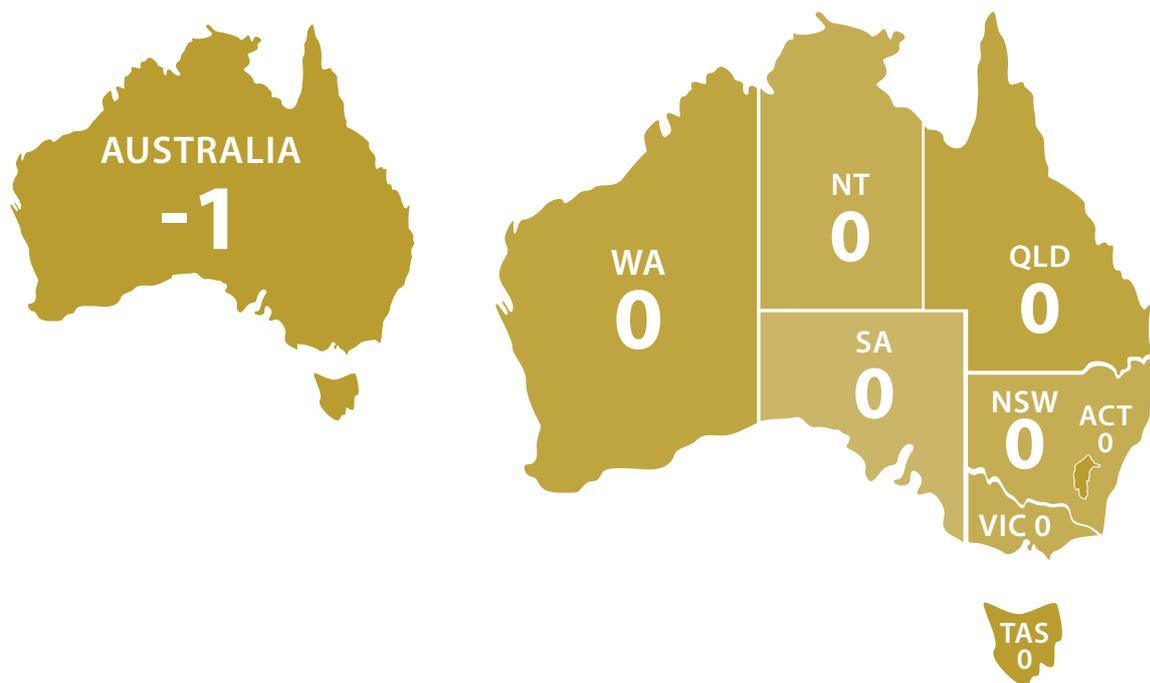
Australians have been less generous since the Global Financial Crisis; however more recent data had suggested that levels of giving were slowly increasing. This is no longer the case. Australia is still not back to pre-Global Financial Crisis levels of individual giving as a percentage of our incomes, and the more recent trend appears negative. With a decrease in average giving between 2013-14 and 2015-16, Australia is scored negatively.

Interestingly, all the jurisdictions with above average levels of giving experienced a decline while all those jurisdictions at or below the national average experienced an increase in giving or no change.

New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory are well above the national average, although all decreased their levels of giving in 2015-16 with the Victorian reduction amounting to almost 20%. All these jurisdictions received a neutral score.

South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, all experienced an increase in giving, but remain below the national average resulting in a neutral score. There was no change in Queensland.

## Generous, kind, compassionate – levels of individual giving



## 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 underestimate volunteering as many Australians volunteer without necessarily acknowledging it (helping out with a sporting team for instance).

### Australia

Recent census data from the ABS indicates that in 2016, around 19% of the population aged 15 and over volunteered in the past 12 months. This was an increase compared to a volunteer rates in earlier census years (17.8% in 2011, and 17.9% in 2006).<sup>7</sup>

### State and territory

The increase 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
2011	16.9%	17.7%	18.7%	19.8%	16.9%	19.5%	16.6%	21.2%	17.8%
2016	18.1%	19.2%	18.8%	21.4%	19.0%	21.3%	17.1%	23.3%	19.0%

<sup>7</sup> The numbers reported here for volunteering have been revised from those from the previous report as no updated data was available from the source used previously, the ABS Voluntary work Cat no. 4441.0. The new figures are from the Census. Figures differ due to differences in calculations.

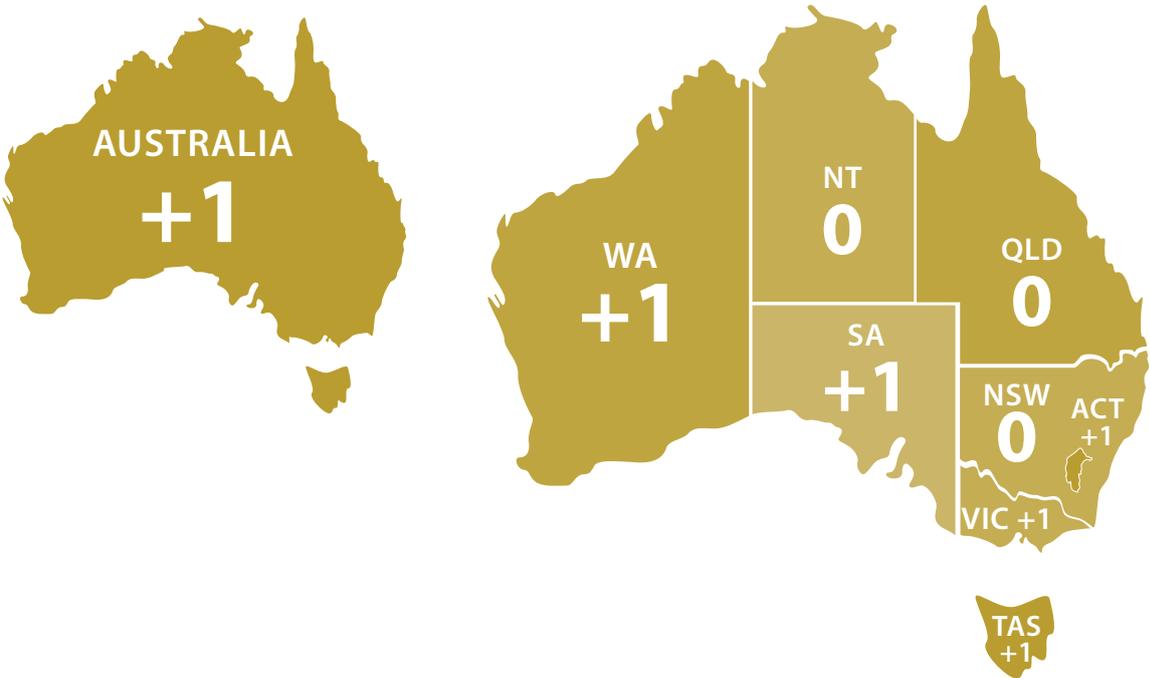
**Findings**

With volunteering rates increasing from the last census, Australia is scored positively.

In New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory, while the volunteering rates improved, they remain at or below the national average. These states and territories therefore receive a neutral score.

All other states and territories are scored positively as they are at or above the national average, and have an increasing rate of volunteering.

**Generous, kind, compassionate – volunteering**



## 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 also as a country prepared to support others when needed. This is not just about our social and ethical responsibility, but also informs our economic opportunities and our safety within the global community.

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 meaningful contribution to our neighbours and countries in need. As people focused on the wellbeing of many local communities, they recognised that it is in all 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 and 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 since 2012. During the same period, the OECD average rate of development assistance has remained relatively stable. Australia is now ranked lower than 18 other OECD countries for generosity based on official government supported international development funding, despite our relative wealth as a nation.

Year	Australia	OECD Average
2012	0.36%	0.40%
2013	0.33%	0.37%
2014	0.31%	0.39%
2015	0.27%	0.39%
2016	0.27%	0.39%
2017	0.23%	0.37%

OECD (2018), Net ODA (indicator): <https://data.oecd.org/oda/net-oda.htm>

## 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



# APPENDIX 1: THE NATIONAL DASHBOARD

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM THE FIRST REPORT (2016)

**+1** positive result

**0** neutral result

**-1** negative result

		AUS	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							
	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							
	business confidence	+1	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							
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>-3</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>+7</b>

# APPENDIX 2

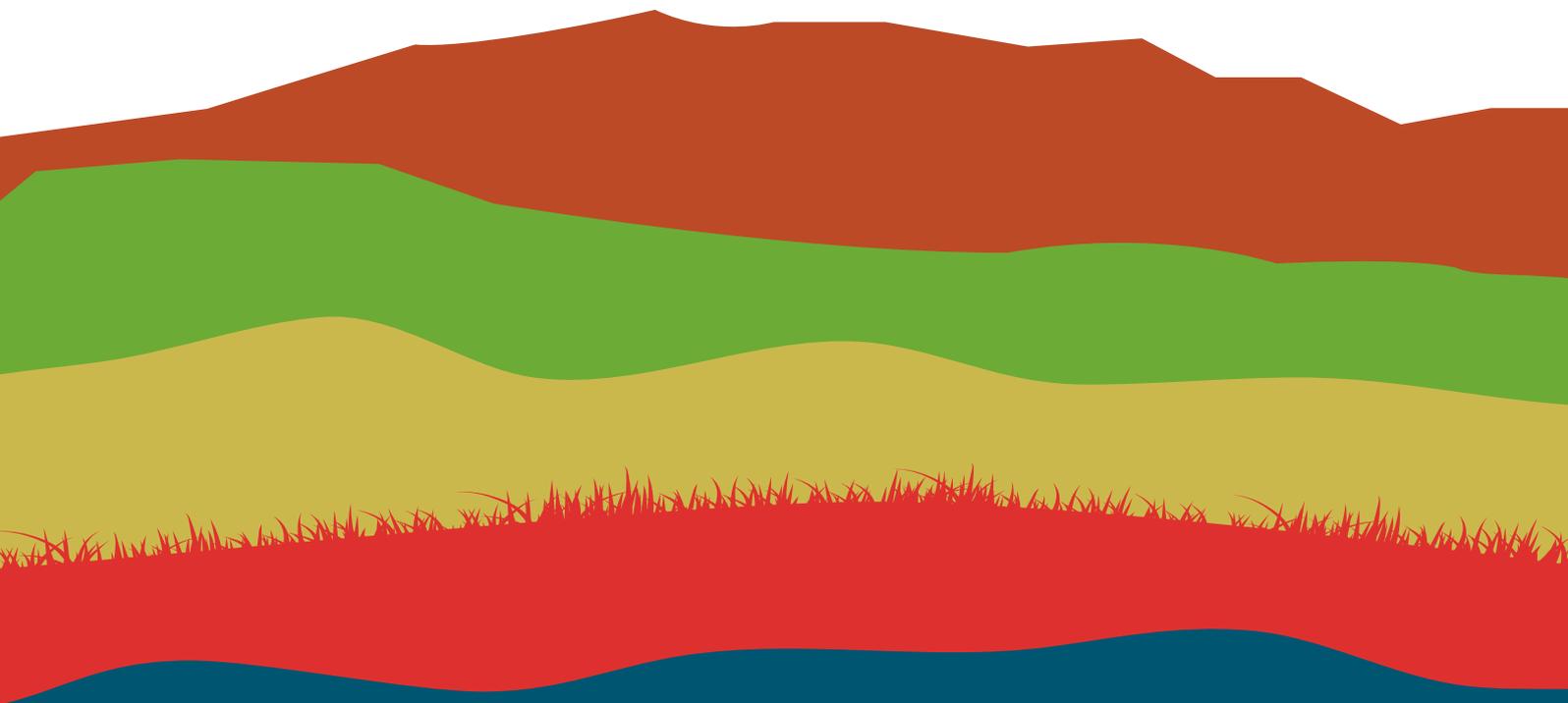
## PARTICIPANTS AT THE CCA NATIONAL AUSWEWANT ROUNDTABLE – FEBRUARY 2015, CANBERRA

ORGANISATION	NAME	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
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

## APPENDIX 2 continued

### PARTICIPANTS AT THE CCA NATIONAL AUSWEWANT ROUNDTABLE – FEBRUARY 2015, CANBERRA

ORGANISATION	NAME	TITLE
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 Pigott	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 and Advocacy
YMCA Australia	Ron Mell	CEO



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