

**LGCSAA 8TH BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE
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**PAPER BY JENNY WILLS, FELLOW CENTRE FOR
PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE –
*BEST PRACTICE BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY INDICATORS***

***MEASURING COMMUNITY WELL BEING –*
A FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
COMMUNITY INDICATORS**

THIS FRAMEWORK BUILDS ON THE ASSOCIATION'S
1999 PUBLICATION, *WORKING TOGETHER TO DEVELOP
OUR COMMUNITIES, GOOD PRACTICE AND
BENCHMARKING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES*, WITH THE
AIM OF DEVELOPING A POCKET GUIDE TO WELL
BEING INDICATORS FOR AUSTRALIAN COUNCILS AND
THEIR COMMUNITIES

THE ASSOCIATION IN VICTORIA HAS CARRIAGE OF
THE PROJECT. I HAVE UNDERTAKEN THE RESEARCH
AND WRITING WITH INPUT ON DRAFTS SOUGHT FROM
A NETWORK OF COUNCILS AND OTHERS, E.G. HEALTH
ISSUES CENTRE, ESTABLISHED FOR THE PROJECT;
INDIVIDUALS, PLUS UNIVERSITIES, ORGANISATIONS
AND GOVT DEPTS AND RELEVANT SPECIAL INTEREST
GROUPS, E.G. THE VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
HOUSING NETWORK AND DEVELOPMENT
EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION AND PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS E.G. AIEH

THE FRAMEWORK IS INTENDED TO BE A **PLANNING
AND EVALUATION TOOL** FOR LOCAL

DEVELOPMENT. IT OFFERS **STANDARDS** FOR ACHIEVING WELL BEING IN A NUMBER OF AREAS OVER WHICH COUNCILS CAN HAVE A MAJOR INFLUENCE THROUGH VISION SETTING PROCESSES WITH THE COMMUNITY, STRATEGIC PLANNING, ADVOCACY, ALLIANCES, POLICIES, GUARDIANSHIP OF COMMUNITY ASSETS, FUNDING AND PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

AIM: TO PROVIDE A GUIDE THAT IS:

1. COMPREHENSIVE
2. CONSISTENT
3. CONCISE and promotes
4. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

FOR ALL COUNCILS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING WELL BEING INDICATORS WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES

THE FRAMEWORK PROVIDES A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO LOCAL COMMUNITY WELL BEING WHICH LINKS A NUMBER OF COMPONENTS INTO AN INTEGRATED PACKAGE

IT IS GROUNDED IN

1. LOCAL DEMOCRACY
2. ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP
3. CULTURAL COMMUNITY WELL BEING VALUES
4. A SENSE OF LOCAL PLACE AND IDENTIFICATION WITH COMMUNITY
5. SOCIAL JUSTICE
6. SOCIAL CAPITAL

TO ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH ITS LOCAL LEADERSHIP ROLE THE FRAMEWORK CLARIFIES THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE MANAGEMENT.

FURTHER IT CONTENDS THAT FOR AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN BALANCING THE DEMANDS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY WITH EQUITABLE OUTCOMES, AND GOALS OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, THEY NEED TO

1. **DELIVER ON GOOD GOVERNANCE**, AND
2. **ACHIEVE SYNERGY BETWEEN THEIR GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE ARMS**, WHICH IN THE MAIN ARE STRUCTURED AND FOCUSED ON SEPARATE FUNCTIONS, NOT COMMUNITYWELL BEING OUTCOMES.

THE CONCEPT OF **SOCIAL JUSTICE** IS EXPLORED FROM A RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE THAT:

1. RECOGNISES THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF EACH INDIVIDUAL
2. RECOGNISES THE DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO POWER, INFORMATION, SERVICES AND RESOURCES
3. CALLS ON SOCIAL EQUITY TO BE MAINSTREAMED SO THAT IT EMERGES FROM THE SYSTEMIC PROCESSES OF DEMOCRATIC LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MANAGEMENT
4. ENSURES THAT ANY DISADVANTAGES RESULTING FROM FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH ABORIGINALITY, ETHNICITY, AGE, GENDER, DISABILITY, SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OR LOCATION ARE ADDRESSED

THE FRAMEWORK ALSO EXPLORES THE CONCEPT OF **SOCIAL CAPITAL** AND ITS RELEVANCE TO THE PUBLIC SPHERE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S INFLUENCE.

SOURCED FROM SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS SOCIAL CAPITAL GROWS FROM **TRUST** IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND TRUST IN GROUPS, ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS.

THEREFORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAN HELP GROW, FOSTER AND SUSTAIN SOCIAL CAPITAL BY THE WAY IN WHICH IT CARRIES OUT ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE, AND ITS CORPORATE MANAGEMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION FUNCTIONS THE FRAMEWORK ALSO STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IN FACILITATING THE GROWTH OF COMMUNITY SOCIAL CAPITAL

IN TERMS OF COMMUNITY WELL BEING ASPIRATIONS THE FRAMEWORK IDENTIFIES **SEVEN WELL BEING OUTCOMES**

WELL BEING OUTCOMES

1. LIVABILITY
2. EQUITY
3. CONVIVIALITY
4. VITALITY
5. ADEQUATE PROSPERITY
6. SUSTAINABILITY
7. VIABILITY

SIX OF THESE DERIVE FROM THE MODELS OF HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROPOSED BY TREVOR HANCOCK AND RON LABONTE IN THE EARLY 1990s (1993) WHICH PLACE A SOCIAL VIEW OF HEALTH WITHIN AN ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT. THESE ATTRIBUTES ARE LINKED TO THE THREE DIMENSIONS/DOMAINS OF COMMUNITY LIFE – SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL, WHICH IN

TERMS OF COMMUNITY WELL BEING AND *THE REAL WORLD*, ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED. THEY ALSO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR REPORTING PROGRESS IN TERMS OF THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

WELL BEING DIMENSIONS/TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE	WELL BEING OUTCOMES
SOCIAL/PHYSICAL	LIVABILITY, EQUITY, CONVIVIALITY, VITALITY
ECONOMIC	ADEQUATE PROSPERITY
ENVIRONMENTAL	SUSTAINABILITY, VIABILITY

THE **ELEMENTS** OF COMMUNITY WELL BEING ADDRESSED IN THE FRAMEWORK ARE:

ELEMENTS

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
1. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
2. PUBLIC/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
3. COMMUNITY SAFETY
4. HOUSING
5. PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND
6. WHO SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

WHO SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

1. SOCIAL GRADIENT
2. STRESS
3. EARLY LIFE
4. SOCIAL EXCLUSION
5. WORK
6. UNEMPLOYMENT
7. SOCIAL SUPPORT

8. FOOD

9. TRANSPORT

THE FRAMEWORK BRIEFLY INTRODUCES EACH OF THE FIRST SIX ELEMENTS. IT SPECIFIES GOOD PRACTICE GOALS, AND BENCHMARKS/TARGETS/STANDARDS FOR A WHOLE OF COMMUNITY, WHOLE OF COUNCIL APPROACHES; A LONG TERM/SUSTAINABLE COMMITMENT AND THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

ELEMENT E.G COMMUNITY SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

1. BEST PRACTICE GOALS

2. BEST PRACTICE

BENCHMARKS/STANDARDS/TARGETS

- WHOLE OF COMMUNITY APPROACH
- WHOLE OF COUNCIL APPROACH
- COUNCIL/CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
- SUSTAINABILITY/LONG TERM COMMITMENT
- SOCIAL JUSTICE

IN RELATION TO THE SEVENTH AREA- WHO SOCIAL DETERMINANTS – THE FRAMEWORK LISTS KEY POLICY AND FUNDING IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THE FRAMEWORK CONCLUDES WITH THE NEXT STEPS FOR A JOINT COUNCIL - COMMUNITY EXERCISE FOR DEVELOPING COMMUNITY INDICATORS

COMMUNITY INDICATORS

1. VALUE ADD TO COMMUNITY WELL BEING VALUES
2. ENDORSE THE BUILDING BLOCKS
3. REVIEW AND ENDORSE THE GOALS AND STANDARDS

4. SELECT LOCAL PRIORITY TARGETS
5. DEVELOP INDICATORS
6. ESTABLISH A PLANNING AND MONITORING PROCESS
7. REPORT PROGRESS ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC - ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS TO COUNCIL AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

NEXT STEPS IN THE LGCSAA PROCESS

1. INPUT FROM OTHER STATES AND STATE EXECUTIVES ON DRAFT
2. PUBLISH AND LAUNCH THE GUIDE IN AN AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE POCKET GUIDE FORMAT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES
3. ESTABLISH A NATIONAL NETWORK OF COUNCILS INTERESTED TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY INDICATORS PROCESS
4. REPORT PROGRESS THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION'S WEB SITE

THANK YOU

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