

Understanding Wellbeing

Children’s wellbeing is everybody’s business. A key pillar of wellbeing is safety. This is particularly relevant to The Orange Door and all parties obligated under the family violence reforms. Effective implementation of the information sharing schemes such as the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) will help promote child wellbeing. The promotion of wellbeing enhances the rights and quality of life of children and young people and supports their safety and development (DET 2021; OECD 2009).

Measuring Wellbeing

There are differing views about what constitutes wellbeing, which makes measuring wellbeing difficult. Children are not homogenous; all children grow, learn, and develop differently which also makes measuring wellbeing difficult (Cho & Yu 2020).

Research from the OECD (2009) indicates that a multi-dimensional view of children’s lives (psychological, physical, and social) is needed to measure wellbeing.

The ‘OECD Child Well-being Framework’ is a global framework that outlines six key dimensions of child wellbeing:

- Material wellbeing, housing and the environment, education, health, risk behaviours and quality of school life.

It is informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC 1989).

Global frameworks include variants of these dimensions to measure wellbeing. For example; Scotland’s wellbeing framework identifies eight indicators that encompass the different dimensions to help consider the quality of life of a child (for more information see Page 2).

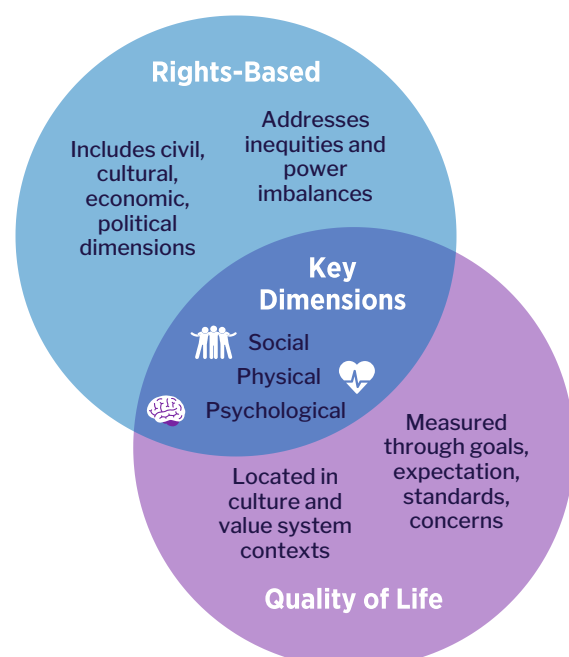
Understanding how child wellbeing is measured is crucial in determining policy and practice outcomes.

Indicators



SOURCE: Getting It Right for Every Child - SHANARRI

Conceptual Approaches



SOURCE: Cho & Yu 2020

Examples

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

This framework seeks to support and ensure the safety and wellbeing of the nation's children and aims to reduce child abuse and neglect.

Concept

- Uses a rights-based conceptual approach.
- Seeks to address unjust power imbalances and inequalities that children face.
- Aims to protect the rights of children facing abuse and neglect.

Indicators

- Children live in safe and supportive families and communities
- Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early
- Risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed
- Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing
- Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented, and survivors receive adequate support

Resource

[Click here to access more information on The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children](#)

The Best Interests Case Practice Model (BICPM)

BICPM is a model that "provides a foundation for working with children [and] families" (DHS 2012, p. 1).

Concept

- Follows an ecological approach to support child wellbeing across child and family services.
- Highlights the relationship between children, families, and community.
- Seeks to create change through interventions within their environment while also supporting the child.

Indicators

- Health and physical development
- Family and social relationships
- Emotional and behavioural development
- Opportunities for play, learning and education
- Opportunities for leisure, recreation and rest
- Opportunities to practice chosen faith
- Opportunities to gain support from cultural community
- Identity, including Aboriginal or other cultural, spiritual and sexual identity
- Social presentation
- Self care skills (age appropriate)
- Gender

Resource

[Click here to access more information on The Best Interest Case Practice Model](#)

Getting It Right For Every Child (Scotland)

This policy seeks to support children and families by making sure that "children and young people can receive the right help, at the right time, from the right people" (Scottish Government 2016). It aims to provide them with a safe environment so that they can reach their full potential.

It is supported by the indicators highlighted in the Scottish Wellbeing Wheel.

Concept

Uses a quality-of-life conceptual approach as it seeks to encourage the development of children through the cultural context and value systems in which they live.

Indicators

The Scottish Wellbeing Wheel highlights eight indicators which aim to help children and young people realise their full potential.

These indicators are for every child and young person to be:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Nurtured
- Active
- Respected
- Responsible
- Included

Resource

[Click here to access more information on Getting It Right For Every Child](#)

References

- Cho, E.Y.-N & Yu, F.-Y 2020, 'A review of measurement tools for child wellbeing', Children and Youth Services Review, vol. 119, p. 1-26.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989, (resolution 44/25), opened for signature 20 November 1989, entered into force 2 September 1990.
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- Department of Human Services (DHS) 2012, Best Interests Case Practice Model Summary Guide, DHS, Victoria, viewed 9 March 2021, <https://www.cpmmanual.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/Best%20interests%20case%20practice%20model%20summary%20guide%202012%203002.pdf>
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 2009, Doing Better for Children.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) 2012, Programme on Mental Health: WHOQOL User Manual.