‘Beyond GDP’ in New Zealand

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Overview

- Background to ‘Beyond GDP’ work in NZ
- Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa - Indicators Aotearoa NZ
  statisticsnz.shinyapps.io/wellbeingindicators
- Living Standards Framework
  lsfdashboard.treasury.govt.nz/wellbeing/
- Reflections on application in budget and elsewhere
Background

• Early 2000s focus on economic inclusion and improving social indicators

• Treasury Living Standards Framework inspired by the Fitoussi commission and the OECD Better Life Index

• Environmental Reporting Act 2015

• Since 2017 the focus of the current Government has been on wellbeing
Informing Government priorities

Wellbeing measurement and monitoring

- Ngā Tutohu Aotearoa - Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand StatsNZ
- + other existing key data and information sources

Information, analysis, advice

- Child wellbeing
- Environmental Reporting - MfE, Stats NZ
- Living Standards Framework
- Sustainable Development Goals

Government decision-making

- Outcome-based frameworks and reporting
- Strategic priority-setting across sectors, populations and policy levers
Measurement – Stats NZ’s Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa

Current Wellbeing

Here and Now

1) Air quality
2) Cities and settlements
3) Climate
4) Culture
5) Economic standard of living
6) Ecosystems
7) Governance
8) Health
9) Identity
10) Knowledge and skills
11) Land
12) Leisure
13) Safety
14) Social connections
15) Subjective wellbeing
16) Waste
17) Water and sanitation
18) Work

Future Wellbeing

Later

1) Human Capital
2) Social Capital
3) Financial and Physical Capital
4) Natural Capital

Transboundary Impacts

Elsewhere

1) Climate
2) Economic standard of living
3) Financial and Physical Capital
4) Human capital
5) Natural capital
6) Waste

Contextual indicators

1) Population
2) Production
Analysis – Treasury’s Living Standards Framework
Reflections on use 1: Macro/micro

- Macro frameworks need to be connected to the micro
- We need to integrate the concepts into standard policy tools e.g. CBA, business case processes, regulatory design
- Policy analysts need to think through the role of different actors in ‘governing for wellbeing’ in a polycentric way
Reflections on use 2: Subpopulations

• Wellbeing is understood and experienced differently by e.g. infants, indigenous groups, migrant groups, rainbow communities
• We have moved to a central framework that is sensitive to difference but sits alongside complementary frameworks
• Ongoing dialogue helps maintain a participatory approach to moving ‘Beyond GDP’
Reflections on use 2: Subpopulations

OECD How’s Life

LSF2018

Current Wellbeing
- Civic engagement and governance
- Cultural identity
- Environment
- Health
- Housing
- Knowledge and skills
- Income and consumption
- Jobs and earnings
- Safety
- Social connections
- Subjective wellbeing
- Time use

Indicators of Future Wellbeing
- Natural Capital
- Human Capital
- Social Capital
- Financial and Physical Capital

Distribution
Risk and resilience
Reflections on use 2: Subpopulations
Reflections on use 3: Keeping GDP

- “Beyond GDP” often reads as “Anti-GDP”
- We have added productivity, firms and markets to the LSF
- We emphasise that the LSF is simply ‘economics done well’