

RESEARCH PAPER FACT SHEET

Measuring progress in Queensland's discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities



What the research does

The staff research paper sets out an approach for measuring progress in Queensland's discrete Indigenous communities.

Progress is measured using a wellbeing framework developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which considers wellbeing across a range of social and economic indicators.

The research paper provides a single measure of progress that can be further broken down into the individual components of wellbeing.

Why the research was done

Communities, government and service providers need a framework to measure and monitor progress to inform policy decisions and direct resources.

A lack of informative and regular reporting on progress was identified as a barrier to reform in the Commission's inquiry into service delivery in Queensland's remote and discrete Indigenous communities. This work is only a starting point.

There is still significant work to be done.

While the paper presents one possible approach to measuring progress, the results should be interpreted as experimental given they are based only on publicly available data.

Government agency data would enhance the robustness of measured outcomes, as would the inclusion of data from communities themselves.

Communities need to be involved

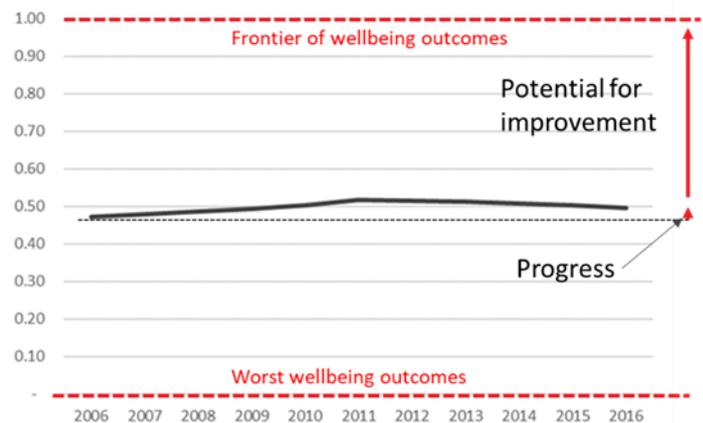
The framework would benefit from the involvement of communities—measures of wellbeing should ultimately reflect the priorities of communities.

For this reason, the measurement framework has been structured so it can be easily modified to incorporate community priorities and knowledge.

What we found

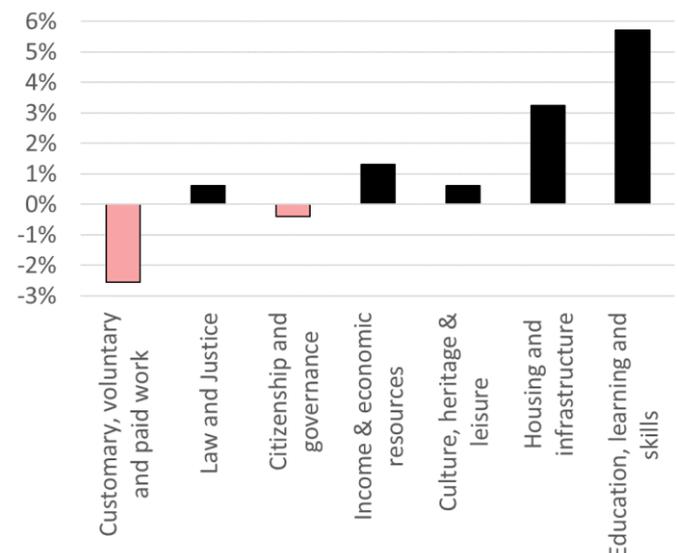
Outcomes have improved, but progress has been slow. Measured wellbeing across all discrete Indigenous communities improved by 8.7 percent from 2006 to 2016, but there remains significant potential for improvement (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Wellbeing over time, all discrete communities



The main drivers to the improvement in measured wellbeing were *Education, learning and skills*, and *Housing and infrastructure*. The main drag on progress was a decline in *Customary, voluntary and paid work*.

Figure 2 Change in the components of wellbeing, 2006–16, all discrete communities



More detailed results, including for individual communities, can be found in the full report.



Download the full report at qpc.qld.gov.au/research

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