

A Wellbeing Outcomes Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland

Wellbeing means that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people can have hopes and dreams and have the best start in all aspects of their life to fulfil those hopes and dreams

Vision

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture

What is the Framework?

- The Wellbeing Outcomes Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland (WOF) defines wellbeing and how it will be measured for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

Development

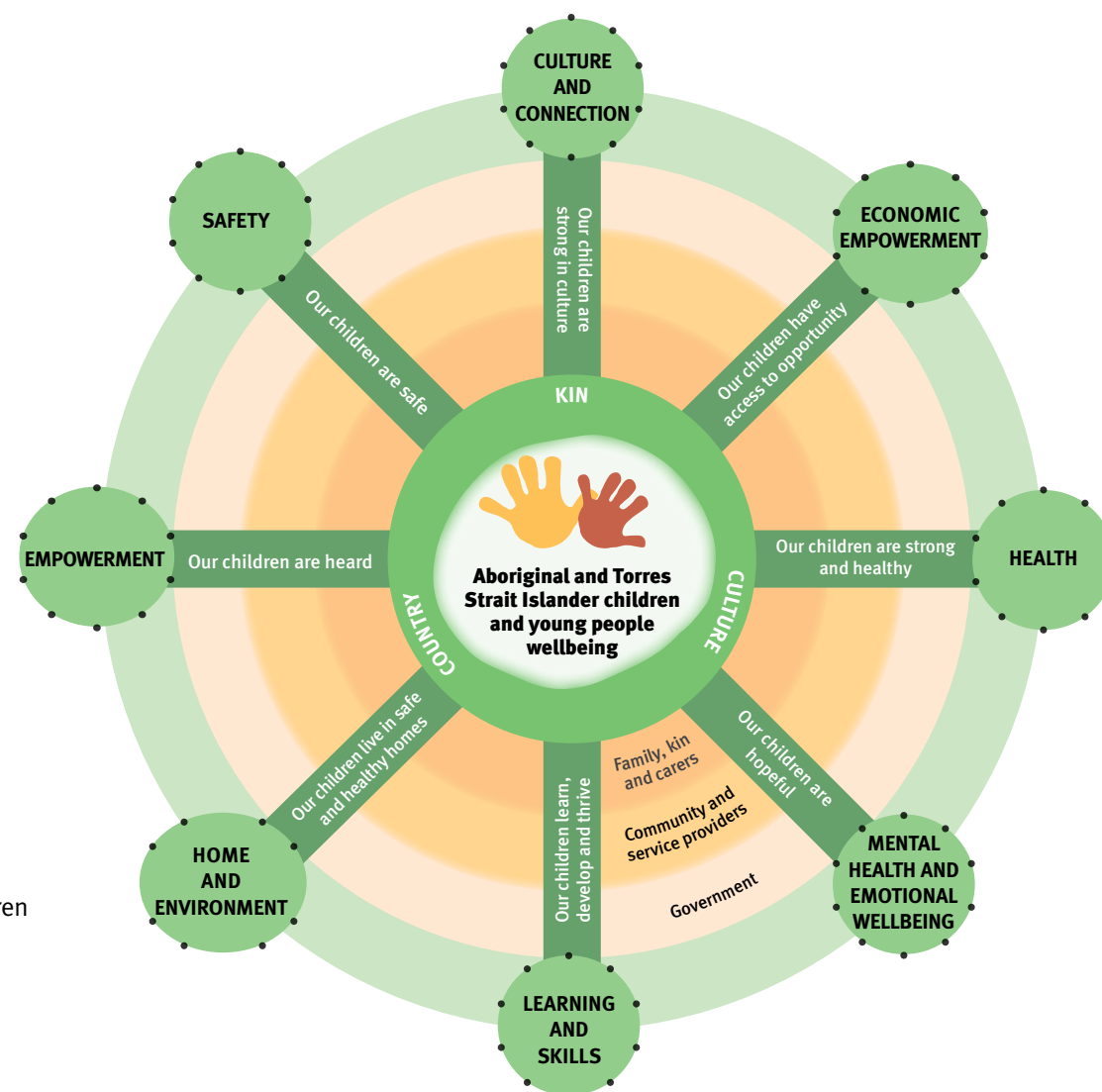
- Developed using a strengths based approach, along with the application of a human rights based environment, which enables wellbeing to be fulfilled by upholding the best interests of the child
- Developed with Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, organisations and young people
- Informed by analysis of existing approaches to wellbeing outcomes
- Guided by the Queensland First Children and Families Board

Aims to

- Identify outcomes that should be sought to achieve wellbeing for children and young people and how these outcomes should be measured
- Inform whole-of-government and agency policy development and decision making to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Kin, Culture and Country

- Emerged as the primary protective factor and enabler of wellbeing and wraps around children and young people like a protective sheath — connection to kin, country and culture must exist for wellbeing to exist



Wellbeing domains

- Outlines the aspirations that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities and the Queensland government have for the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to thrive, and grow up safe, connected to community and culture
- It includes eight, interconnected, wellbeing domains representing all of the areas of a child and young person's life that impact on their wellbeing
- All domains are equally important
- The wellbeing outcome for each of the eight domains represents the ultimate state of wellbeing for children and young people for the particular domain eg. "Our children are strong in culture"

Circles of influence

- Three circles of influence surround and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, with the strongest level of influence the closest to the child or young person — their parents, kin and non-parent carers
- All three levels of adult influence **1.** family, kin and carers, **2.** community and service providers, and **3.** governments, hold the responsibility to children and young people for their wellbeing
- The WOF helps each level of adult influence to see what role they must play in ensuring the wellbeing of children and young people

Applying the WOF

It is intended that the outcomes identified in the WOF become the consistent outcomes against which all Queensland Government agency programs and initiatives, intended to improve the outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, are measured.

Domain definitions

Culture and Connection

Definition: Culture and Connection refers to all the elements that form a child's sense of identity, and pride in their identity, as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person

Economic Empowerment

Definition: Economic Empowerment includes ensuring the environment that children grow up in is free from poverty, and where parents, carers and family have access to economic opportunity

Health

Definition: Health refers to physical and spiritual health and their social determinants. This includes ensuring that children and young people have access to affordable and appropriate medical care as well as a healthy lifestyle from birth to adulthood

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Definition: Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing incorporates promotion of resilience, hope for the future and positive body, mind and spirit. It also recognises many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are dealing with grief and loss, the impacts of intergenerational trauma, violence and abuse

Learning and Skills

Definition: Learning and Skills refers to age appropriate learning and development for all children and young people. The development of knowledge and skills includes those obtained through formal education as well as life skills

Home and Environment

Definition: Home and Environment refers to children and young people having places to call home that are healthy, safe and secure. Places where children and young people sleep, eat, study and play, have the basics of a bed, food and shelter, while also being a place where they feel loved, secure and connected

Empowerment

Definition: Empowerment refers to children and young people having and being able to exercise their agency in the communities and environments in which they live, learn and work

Safety

Definition: Safety refers to children and young people growing up in a loving and supportive environment where they are free from all forms of harm and abuse