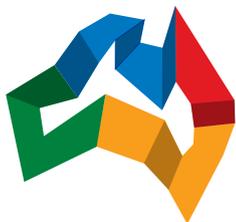




Is life in Australia getting better?

# Measures of Australia's Progress 2013





## Measures of Australia's Progress 2013

### IS LIFE IN AUSTRALIA GETTING BETTER?

**M**EASURES OF AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS (MAP) presents a suite of indicators to help Australians answer the question, 'Is life in Australia getting better?'

MAP aligns key information with the hopes and aspirations of Australians. It provides a summary of progress measures informing on areas of life that Australians told us were important for national progress.

MAP advances the cause of progress measurement and is at the vanguard of international progress measurement activity. Following a comprehensive consultation and refresh, this brochure provides a summary of headline measures of progress which cover the major facets of Australian life.

To enable a quick assessment of whether life in Australia is improving, a dashboard display is provided (see overleaf). The MAP dashboard shows whether progress, regress or little change has been made.

The MAP dashboard is organised around four domains: society, economy, the environment and governance. Within each of these broad areas of life, more detailed themes are addressed, such as 'health' within the social domain, 'prosperity' within the economic domain, 'healthy natural environment' within the environmental domain and 'trust' within the governance domain.

Where available, each theme contains a headline progress indicator that represents the theme as a whole and shows whether progress has been made for this area. Where indicators are not available we have identified these areas as a data gap for possible future development. The online MAP product also shows progress in the more detailed areas of life that Australians thought were important.

For more detailed information about any of the headline progress indicators, or to see the most up to date information about Australia's progress, please visit the Measures of Australia's Progress website at [www.abs.gov.au/about/progress](http://www.abs.gov.au/about/progress).



## The MAP Dashboard

### Society

-  Health
-  Close relationships
-  Home
-  Safety
-  Learning and knowledge
-  Community connections and diversity
-  A fair go
-  Enriched lives

### Environment

-  Healthy natural environment
-  Appreciating the environment
-  Protecting the environment
-  Sustaining the environment
-  Healthy built environments
-  Working together for a healthy environment

### Economy

-  Opportunities
-  Jobs
-  Prosperity
-  A resilient economy
-  Enhancing living standards
-  Fair outcomes
-  International economic engagement

### Governance

-  Trust
-  Effective governance
-  Participation
-  Informed public debate
-  People's rights and responsibilities

#### Legend:

-  The headline progress indicator for this theme has shown **progress**.
-  The headline progress indicator for this theme has shown **regress**.
-  The headline progress indicator for this theme has **not changed greatly**.
-  There is a **data gap** for this theme as there is currently no headline progress indicator.



## HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA HAS **PROGRESSED** OVER THE LAST DECADE

### How have we decided there has been progress?

Health in Australia has progressed over the last decade because continuous improvements in life expectancy at birth suggest there has been progress. In the ten years to 2011, life expectancy at birth has improved by 2.7 years for males and 1.8 years for females. Based on current mortality rates, a male born in 2010 – 11 can expect to live 79.7 years, while a female can expect to live 84.2 years. Over the decade, male life expectancy increased more than female life expectancy (2.7 compared with 1.8 years). This saw the gap between the sexes' life expectancy decrease by almost one year to 4.5 years.

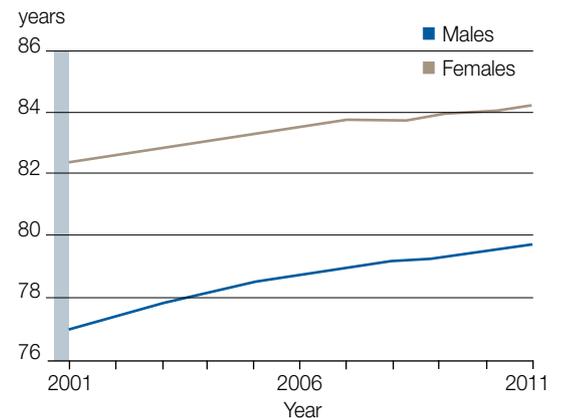
## AUSTRALIANS ASPIRE TO GOOD HEALTH FOR ALL



### Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that being healthy was one of the most significant factors affecting an individual's wellbeing. While health conditions and disabilities will always exist, people felt that it was still possible for people to optimise their health and have a feeling of wellness. Health was seen as multidimensional, relating not just to someone's physical condition but also to their mental, emotional and social wellbeing.

#### Life expectancy at birth(a)



#### Footnote:

(a) Life expectancy has been calculated using data for the three years ending in the reference year.

#### Source:

ABS Deaths Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 3302.0)



**CLOSE  
RELATIONSHIPS  
IN AUSTRALIA  
HAVE NOT  
CHANGED  
GREATLY IN  
RECENT YEARS**

**How have we decided things  
haven't changed greatly?**

There has been little change in close relationships in Australia in recent years because the proportion of people who have family members living elsewhere that they can confide in hasn't moved much. Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of people who had family members living elsewhere that they could confide in didn't change significantly (88% and 89% of people, respectively).

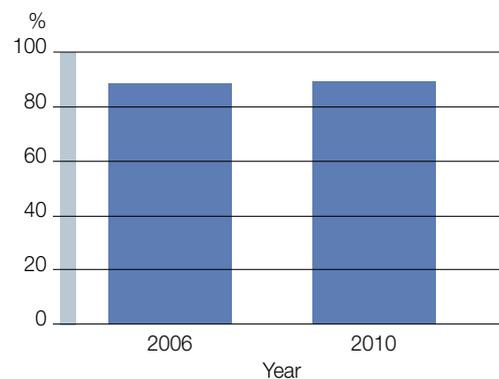


AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO A  
SOCIETY THAT  
NURTURES  
FAMILIES AND  
OTHER CLOSE  
RELATIONSHIPS  
THAT SUPPORT  
PEOPLE

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that positive, close relationships have benefits for individuals and society overall. Positive relationships were seen to be caring, strong, healthy and loving ones, and vital for children if they are to thrive and go on to contribute to Australia's future. They can be family relationships, which have a fundamental effect on wellbeing, or other close relationships where people care for and support one another. Many people agreed that sufficient time needs to be available to build and maintain positive relationships especially during crucial times.

**People who have family members living elsewhere that they can confide in(a)**



**Footnote:**

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

**Source:**

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)



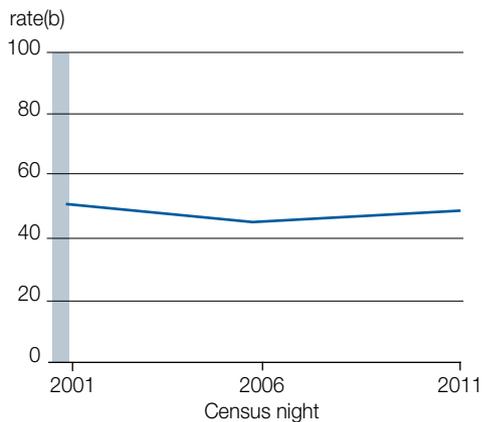
**HOME IN AUSTRALIA HAS NOT CHANGED GREATLY OVER THE LAST DECADE**

AUSTRALIANS ASPIRE TO HAVE SECURE PLACES TO LIVE THAT PROVIDE A SENSE OF BELONGING AND HOME, AND ARE ADEQUATE TO THEIR NEEDS

**How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?**

There has been little change in the theme of home in Australia over the last decade because the homelessness rate has shown little progress. The homelessness rate was 49 persons for every 10,000 persons counted in the most recent 2011 Census. This is up 8% from the 45 persons for every 10,000 in 2006, but down on the 51 persons for every 10,000 in 2001.

**Homelessness rate per 10,000 population(a)**



**Footnotes:**

- (a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness.
- (b) Rates are based on the Census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).

**Source:**

ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0)

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that home means a great deal to people in many different ways. A home provides shelter from the elements, privacy, safety from harm, and the essential infrastructure needed for living with dignity. A home can also contribute to a sense of belonging, of being settled and engenders feelings of pride, security and ownership. Homes can be central to building positive relationships and communities. For homes to provide these benefits, it was thought they should be affordable and appropriate to people's needs.





**SAFETY IN AUSTRALIA HAS NOT CHANGED GREATLY IN RECENT YEARS**

**How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?**

There has been little change in whether safety in Australia is getting better or not because the victimisation rate for physical assault hasn't moved much in recent years. Between 2008-09 and 2011-12, the proportion of people who were victims of physical assault remained steady at around 3%. In 2011-12, there were an estimated 539,800 victims of physical assault in Australia, compared to an estimated 527,400 victims in 2008-09.

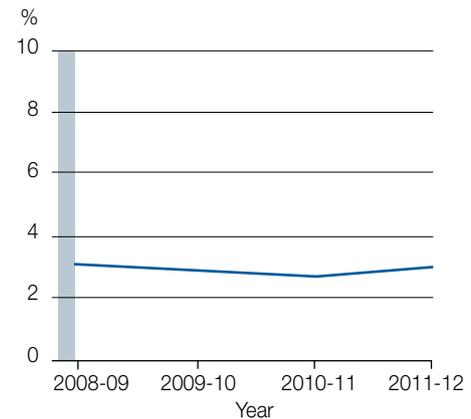


AUSTRALIANS ASPIRE TO A SOCIETY WHERE PEOPLE ARE SAFE AND FEEL SAFE

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that it is important to be safe and free from physical and emotional violence, danger and harassment in their relationships, in public, while at work or in other areas of their life. People thought that this could be achieved by reducing crime, and through urban planning, workplace regulations, policing and justice systems, safe housing and other mechanisms that ensure public safety.

**Physical assault victimisation rate**



**Source:** ABS Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2011-12 (cat no. 4530.0)



## LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE IN AUSTRALIA HAS **PROGRESSED** OVER THE LAST DECADE

AUSTRALIANS ASPIRE TO A SOCIETY THAT VALUES AND ENABLES LEARNING

### How have we decided there has been progress?

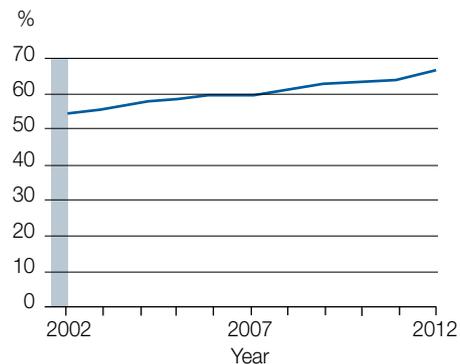
Learning and knowledge in Australia has progressed over the last decade because the proportion of people aged 25 – 64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification has increased. Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of people aged 25 – 64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification rose from 54% (5.5 million) to 67% (7.8 million). This increase was largely driven by the rise in the proportion of people with a higher education qualification (i.e. a bachelor degree or above) rising from 20% in 2002 to 30% in 2012. The proportion of people with a vocational qualification as their highest qualification increased at a much slower pace, rising from 33% in 2002 to 35% in 2012.



### Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that learning, gaining knowledge and developing skills are important throughout people's lives. Children's development from infancy through schooling and into higher education and training is considered to be important to both individual wellbeing, and to society overall. Society benefits from the increase in people's knowledge and abilities through increased productivity, innovation and cultural identity.

#### Persons aged 25 – 64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification



**Source:**  
ABS data on request, 2002 – 2011 Survey of Education and Work



**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND DIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA HAS NOT CHANGED GREATLY IN RECENT YEARS**

**How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?**

There has been little change in community connections and diversity in Australia in recent years because the proportion of people aged 18 years and over who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed hasn't moved much. Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of people aged 18 years and over who had no involvement in social and community groups remained steady at just below a third of the population (30% and 32% respectively).

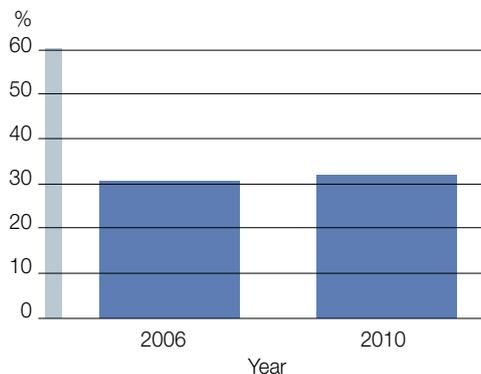


AUSTRALIANS ASPIRE TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND EMBRACE DIVERSITY

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that it was important for individuals to feel connected with, contribute to, feel included in and valued by their community beyond their family and friends. An important aspect of this relationship was reciprocity, where people both give to and receive from the community. Connectedness was seen as something that can be built through quality interactions, for example through cultural activities, volunteering and services provided within the community.

**People who have had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed(a)**



**Footnote:**  
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

**Source:**  
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)



## A DATA GAP CURRENTLY EXISTS FOR A FAIR GO

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO A  
FAIR SOCIETY  
THAT ENABLES  
EVERYONE TO  
MEET THEIR  
NEEDS

### Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that all people should have an equal opportunity to establish, improve and maintain their wellbeing, and have access to the services and opportunities that support these efforts. This echoes the familiar Australian tradition of egalitarianism. It includes the ability of people to meet their basic needs, build their capabilities, gain income through employment and access information. It also relates to the quality and availability of infrastructure such as transport, which underpins these activities. The idea of an equal opportunity, or a fair go, was seen as particularly important for those who are at vulnerable points in their lives or who are marginalised or disadvantaged.



In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

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2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing a fair go, but the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future. For more detailed information about a fair go please visit the Measures of Australia's Progress website at [www.abs.gov.au/about/progress](http://www.abs.gov.au/about/progress).



## A DATA GAP CURRENTLY EXISTS FOR ENRICHED LIVES

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO  
VALUE ALL  
ASPECTS OF  
LIFE THAT ARE  
IMPORTANT TO  
PEOPLE AND  
ENRICH THEIR  
LIVES

### Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that many aspects of life that increase wellbeing and make life worthwhile are not material, and are intangible. Many participants in the consultation process wanted to acknowledge that these factors are important in people's lives. For example, many felt that emotions can be as important to people's sense of wellbeing as their material conditions, and acts of altruism or caring can positively affect both the giver and receiver. Music, dance, art, poetry, film and the many forms of popular culture can bring depth and joy to people's lives, and clarify our values and identity as individuals and as a nation. Australians have a love of sport and the outdoors, and value the bonding, relaxation and insights that leisure time pursuits bring. People felt their connections with one another, with their pets and with nature; their sense of a higher purpose, their deeper beliefs and motivations; and their sense of identity and cultural heritage; can enrich their lives and our society as a whole.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

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A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing enriched lives, but the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future. For more detailed information about enriched lives please visit the Measures of Australia's Progress website at [www.abs.gov.au/about/progress](http://www.abs.gov.au/about/progress).





**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA HAVE PROGRESSED IN RECENT YEARS**

AUSTRALIANS ASPIRE TO HAVE THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES THEY NEED TO THRIVE

**How have we decided there has been progress?**

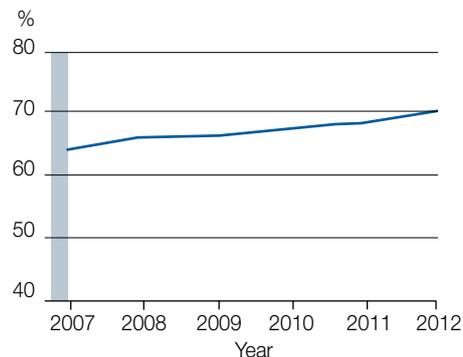
Economic opportunities in Australia have progressed in recent years because the proportion of persons with a Certificate III or above, or employed in a skilled occupation, has increased. In 2007, 64% of the population aged 20–64 years had a Certificate III or above or were employed in a skilled occupation. By 2012, this proportion had increased to 70%, with year-on-year growth seen in the proportion for each of the five intervening years.



**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us they believed it important that the economy increased the wellbeing of Australians. This meant people having the opportunities, means and ability to have a high standard of living and lead the kind of life they want and choose to live. This may include people having employment or business opportunities, income, services, skills and knowledge to secure their wellbeing and the wellbeing of their loved ones.

**Persons with a Certificate III or above or employed in a skilled occupation(a)**



**Footnote:**

(a) Persons aged 20–64 years

**Source:**

ABS data available on request, 2007–2012 Survey of Education and Work



THE **PROVISION**  
**OF JOBS** IN  
AUSTRALIA HAS  
**PROGRESSED**  
OVER THE LAST  
DECADE

**How have we decided there  
has been progress?**

The provision of jobs in Australia has progressed over the last decade because the unemployment rate has decreased. Between 2002 and 2012, the annual average unemployment rate for Australia decreased from 6.4% to 5.2%. The decrease in the rate was consistent over the period from 2002 to 2008, following which the rate increased in the wake of the global financial crisis. Since 2010, there has been some levelling off in the unemployment rate to its current figure.

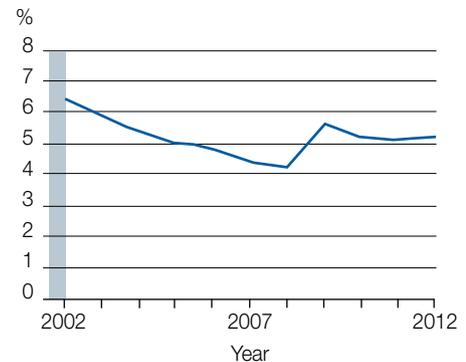


AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO AN  
ECONOMY THAT  
PROVIDES THEM  
WITH QUALITY  
JOBS

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that paid work is important to people's lives, to the economy and to society overall. Employment provides individuals with income, a sense of purpose and a way they can contribute to society. Paid employment is closely linked with economic growth and is the basis of societal productivity and resourcefulness.

**Unemployment rate(a)**



**Footnote:**

(a) Annual average.

**Source:**

ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)



**ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY IN  
AUSTRALIA HAS  
PROGRESSED  
OVER THE LAST  
DECADE**

**How have we decided there  
has been progress?**

Economic prosperity in Australia has progressed over the last decade because net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita grew year-on-year for the majority of the decade. Despite fluctuating over time, since 2001 – 02, net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita experienced year-on-year growth most years, with very slight negative growth only seen in the most recent financial year. Comparing year-on-year growth indicates a trend towards more moderate annual growth. This trend reflects, amongst other factors, losses in the value of Australian non-financial assets.

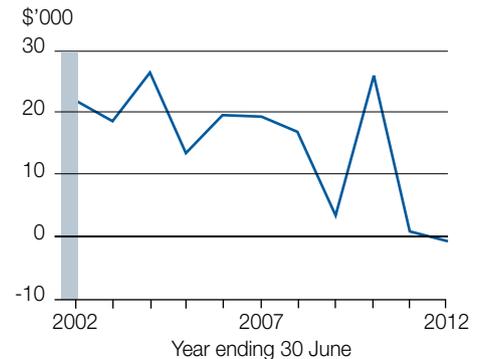


AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO A  
PROSPEROUS  
AND EFFICIENT  
ECONOMY

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that they wanted an economy that thrived and functioned well. This included having an economy that uses both labour and other resources efficiently, that provides access to resources needed for production, that fosters improved productivity of work processes and can compete in an increasingly globalised marketplace.

**Net saving plus other changes in real net  
wealth per capita**



**Sources:**

ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011 – 12 (cat. no. 5204.0)  
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)



THE RESILIENCE  
OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
ECONOMY HAS  
REGRESSED  
OVER THE LAST  
DECADE

**How have we decided there  
has been regress?**

The resilience of Australia's economy has regressed over the last decade because multifactor productivity has decreased. Between 2001 – 02 and 2011 – 12, multifactor productivity in Australia declined 2.1%. This means that growth in output (i.e. goods and services) of the Australian market sector has been outpaced by growth in its inputs (i.e. capital and labour) over the past decade. An economy with a lower level of productivity is likely to be less capable of withstanding and recovering from economic downturns.

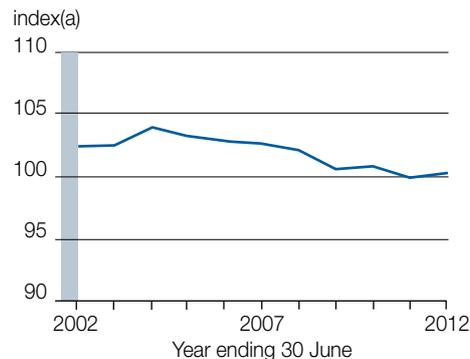


AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO AN  
ECONOMY THAT  
IS RESILIENT TO  
SHOCKS AND  
WHICH ALLOWS  
PEOPLE TO  
MANAGE RISK

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that in response to recent global economic downturns and natural disasters, many aspired to an economy able to cope with unexpected crises and to maintain a good standard of living for Australians. This included an economy which can respond flexibly to events and where resources can be drawn upon to protect against risk.

**Multifactor productivity**



**Footnote:**

(a) Reference year is 2010 – 11 = 100.0.

**Source:**

ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011 – 12 (cat. no. 5204.0)



## ENHANCING LIVING STANDARDS IN AUSTRALIA HAS PROGRESSED OVER THE LAST DECADE

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO AN  
ECONOMY THAT  
SUSTAINS AND  
ENHANCES LIVING  
STANDARDS INTO  
THE FUTURE

### How have we decided there has been progress?

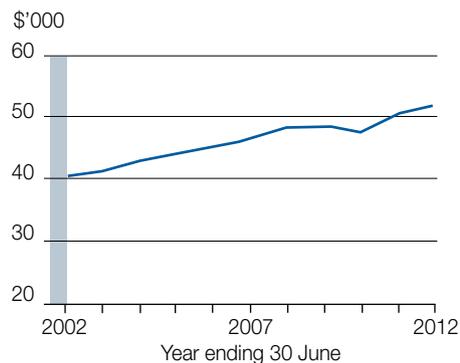
Living standards have progressed over the last decade because real net national disposable income per capita has increased. During the decade 2001 – 02 to 2011 – 12, Australia's real net national disposable income grew from \$40,600 per person to \$51,800 per person in 2010 – 11 dollars. Year-on-year growth of around 2 – 3% was consistent for most of the decade, with only the 2009 – 10 financial year recording a decline in real net national disposable income per capita (-2%).



### Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that sustaining economic performance over the long term was important. During the consultation, people said they wanted an economy that meets the needs of Australians today without compromising the needs of future generations. This means sustaining resources, services and infrastructure that underpin social functioning, and protecting, managing and using these sustainably.

#### Real net national disposable income per capita(a)



**Footnote:**

(a) Reference year is 2010 – 11.

**Source:**

ABS Australian System of National Accounts,  
2011 – 12 (cat. no. 5204.0)



**FAIR OUTCOMES**  
IN AUSTRALIA  
HAVE **NOT**  
**CHANGED**  
**GREATLY** IN  
RECENT YEARS

**How have we decided things  
haven't changed greatly?**

There has been little change in fair outcomes in Australia in recent years because the ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households hasn't moved much. In 2007 – 08, the ratio of income received by low income households (measured at the 10th percentile of the income distribution) relative to middle income households (measured using the population median) was 0.52. Four years later in 2011 – 12, the ratio was similar at 0.53. This ratio tells us that households with low incomes receive slightly more than half the amount of income (53% in 2011 – 12) as households in the middle of the distribution.

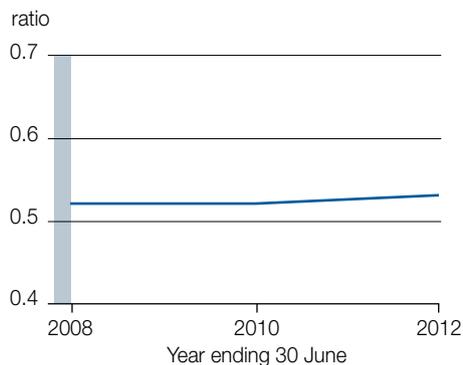


AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO AN  
ECONOMY THAT  
SUPPORTS FAIR  
OUTCOMES

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that it was important that all Australians shared equitably in economic progress. Many share concerns about disadvantage and inequity and want to ensure all Australians have basic standards of living. In particular, there is a feeling that people should have opportunities to improve their wellbeing, regardless of differences in education, socioeconomic background or other factors.

**Ratio of income received by low income  
households relative to middle income  
households(a)(b)**



**Footnotes:**

- (a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio).
- (b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

**Source:**

ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)



AUSTRALIA'S  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC  
ENGAGEMENT  
HAS **PROGRESSED**  
OVER THE LAST  
DECADE

**How have we decided there  
has been progress?**

Australia's international economic engagement has progressed over the last decade because the international trade rate has increased. Between 2001 – 02 and 2011 – 12, international trade in goods and services relative to gross domestic product (GDP) increased from 41% to 43%. Although this measure decreased during 2002 – 03, 2003 – 04 and 2009 – 10, an upward trend has clearly emerged as total trade in goods and services increased for most of this period.

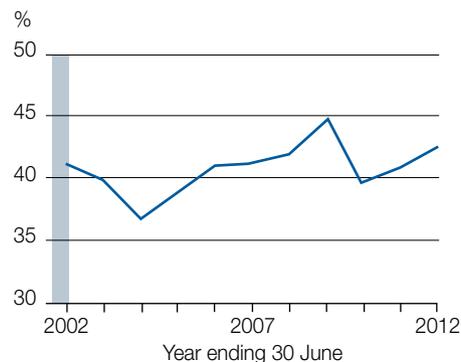


AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO  
FRUITFUL  
ECONOMIC  
ENGAGEMENT  
WITH THE REST  
OF THE WORLD

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that while there were different ideas on what international economic engagement would look like, overall many people saw it as a positive thing for Australia. Positive interactions may include trade relationships or Australia being a destination for visitors and migrants. They might also involve Australia being open to giving and receiving ideas and sharing knowledge and experience.

**International trade rate(a)**



**Footnote:**

(a) Total imports and exports of goods and services divided by gross domestic product.

**Source:**

ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011 – 12 (cat. no. 5204.0)



**A DATA GAP  
CURRENTLY  
EXISTS FOR  
HEALTHY  
NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT**

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO A  
HEALTHY NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that they want their natural environment to become healthier rather than degraded over time. This includes improving the health of all the components of the environment. Until recently there has been a tendency to take clean water, clean air and natural attractions such as the Great Barrier Reef for granted. However, increasing population and economic pressures have caused many people to be increasingly concerned about the state of both the Australian and wider global environment.



In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing our healthy natural environment, but the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future. Please visit the Measures of Australia's Progress website at [www.abs.gov.au/about/progress](http://www.abs.gov.au/about/progress) for more detailed information about the healthy natural environment.



**APPRECIATION  
OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
IN AUSTRALIA  
HAS NOT  
CHANGED  
GREATLY  
SINCE 2004**

**How have we decided things  
haven't changed greatly?**

There has been little change in the appreciation of the environment in Australia since 2004 because the number of domestic trips involving nature activities per capita hasn't moved much. In 2012, there were 3.4 domestic trips involving nature activities for every person aged 15 years or over. This was not significantly different from the 3.6 trips per person in 2004.

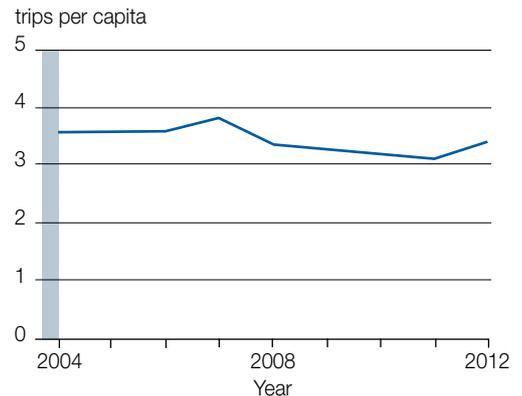


AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO  
APPRECIATE  
THE NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND PEOPLE'S  
CONNECTION  
WITH IT

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that they want the natural environment valued in many ways. Part of appreciating the environment is having access to the opportunities it provides for enjoyment, reflection and inspiration. The environment was also seen to contribute to the economy by providing resources and supporting industries. For many people the environment was seen to have value in its own right, not only because it enriches human life.

**Domestic trips(a) involving nature activities(b)**



**Footnotes:**

- (a) Includes both overnight and day trips.
- (b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

**Sources:**

Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data),  
ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012  
(cat. no. 3235.0)



**A DATA GAP  
CURRENTLY  
EXISTS FOR  
PROTECTING AND  
LOOKING AFTER  
THE NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT**

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO  
LOOK AFTER  
AND PROTECT  
OUR NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us they were concerned with how people look after the natural environment. Australians aspired to protect, care for and avoid damage to the environment, for example through protecting native flora, fauna, and wilderness areas. This involves careful management and restorative measures to improve the state of the environment and support healthy environmental function. Throughout the consultation, there was strong support for the idea that caring for the natural environment can occur through individual or group initiatives and through business and government programs.



In MAP 2013 there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for protecting and looking after the natural environment, such as people's involvement in environmental conservation or other activities. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future. Please visit the Measures of Australia's Progress website at [www.abs.gov.au/about/progress](http://www.abs.gov.au/about/progress) for more detailed information about protecting and looking after the natural environment.



**MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABLY IN AUSTRALIA HAS REGRESSED OVER THE LAST DECADE**

**How have we decided there has been regress?**

There has been regress in managing the environment sustainably in Australia over the last decade because Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions has increased. In 2011, Australia emitted 547 million tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>-e). Although this was lower than the peak of 626 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2007, it was higher than the 486 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e emitted in 2001.

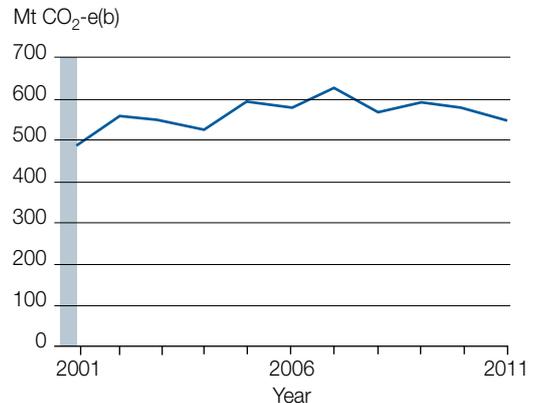


AUSTRALIANS ASPIRE TO MANAGE THE ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABLY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that acting to sustain the natural environment and its resources for the long term was important to business, government, communities and society. People felt that how we use the environment's resources affects our present wellbeing and the wellbeing of future generations. Many thought it was important to be aware of the impact of human activities or lifestyles on the environment, particularly those that either moderate resource depletion or threaten long term sustainability.

**Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions(a), excluding wildfires**



**Footnotes:**

(a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory.

(b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.

**Source:**

Unpublished data provided by the then Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013



THE HEALTH  
OF OUR BUILT  
ENVIRONMENTS  
IN AUSTRALIA  
HAS **PROGRESSED**  
IN RECENT YEARS

**How have we decided there has been progress?**

Healthy built environments in Australia have progressed in recent years because the proportion of capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion has increased. In 2012, 25% of capital city residents felt that their city had a good road network and minimal traffic congestion. This was an increase from the 23% who felt the same way in 2010.

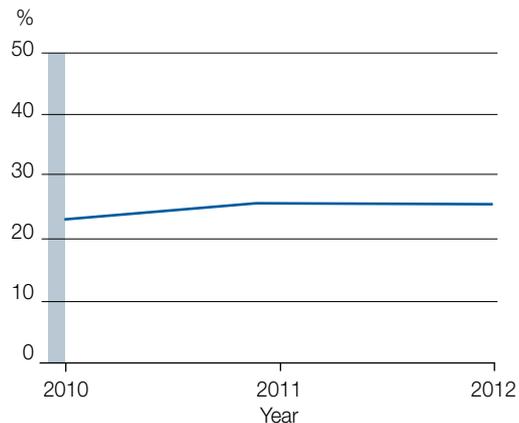


AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO  
HEALTHY BUILT  
ENVIRONMENTS

**Why is this theme important?**

Close to two-thirds of Australians live in our capital cities, with many living in other urban centres. On a daily basis, people use buildings, roads and pathways, transport systems, sewage systems, parks and other built environments. Australians told us that they cared about the importance of the liveability of urban environments. People also felt that these environments should be places that people enjoy living and being, and should support positive social interaction and inclusion.

**Capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion**



**Source:**  
Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll



## A DATA GAP CURRENTLY EXISTS FOR WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE FOR  
GOVERNMENT,  
BUSINESS AND  
COMMUNITIES TO  
WORK TOGETHER  
LOCALLY AND  
GLOBALLY FOR  
A HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENT

### Why is this theme important?

Australians told us they saw achieving a healthy environment as a collective effort. They felt that the natural environment affects everyone, and that all people, groups, businesses and nations have a responsibility to participate in protecting it. In caring for and sustaining the environment, they hoped for alignment between the different levels of government, for collaboration and linking across public and private activities and initiatives, and for international cooperation.



In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

While we are considering ways to better understand progress of working together for a healthy environment, the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.



**TRUST HAS  
NOT CHANGED  
GREATLY IN  
AUSTRALIA IN  
RECENT YEARS**

**How have we decided things  
haven't changed greatly?**

There has been little change in trust in Australian institutions and governance processes in recent years because the level of generalised trust hasn't moved much. In 2010, 54% of Australians agreed or strongly agreed that most people could be trusted, the same proportion seen four years earlier in 2006.

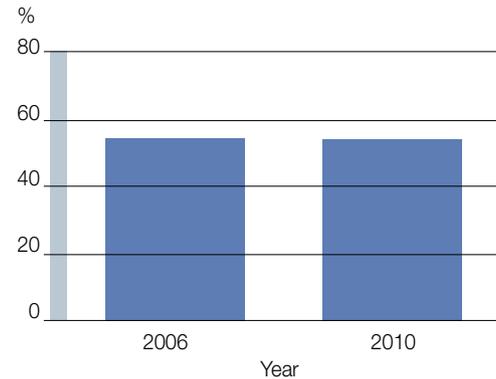


AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO  
INSTITUTIONS  
AND GOVERNANCE  
PROCESSES THEY  
CAN TRUST AND  
HOLD TO ACCOUNT

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that governance systems and processes needed to be open, honest, unbiased and trusted by society. This related to government, non-government bodies and people within communities. People wanted governance processes to be free from corruption, favouritism and conflict of interest. In addition, trust between members of the community was also seen as an essential aspect of the general idea of trust, ensuring communities and societies functioned effectively.

**Level of generalised trust(a)**



**Footnote:**

(a) Proportion of persons that agree or strongly agree that most people can be trusted.

**Source:**

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)



**A DATA GAP  
CURRENTLY  
EXISTS FOR  
EFFECTIVE  
GOVERNANCE**

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO  
GOVERNANCE  
THAT WORKS  
WELL

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that good governance and regulation, within both government and non-government sectors, was important to national progress. People felt that good governance is effective and efficient. Many people in the consultation wanted the systems, processes and institutions that govern and regulate our activity, and protect our rights and freedoms, to be easy for people to access and interact with. They also wanted governance to be appropriate and to allow effective outcomes without overburdening people or institutions. People aspired to have their governance systems aligned, working together and adequately funded. They also wanted governance systems, processes and institutions to be strong and yet adaptable to change and to enable Australian society to bounce back from adversity.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment can not be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing effective governance, but the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.





THE  
**OPPORTUNITY  
TO PARTICIPATE  
IN DECISION  
MAKING AND  
GOVERNANCE  
PROCESSES IN  
AUSTRALIA HAS  
PROGRESSED IN  
RECENT YEARS**

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO HAVE  
THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO HAVE A SAY IN  
DECISIONS THAT  
AFFECT THEIR  
LIVES

**How have we decided there  
has been progress?**

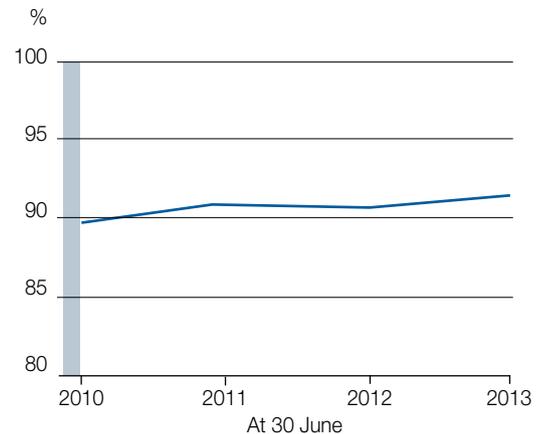
The opportunity to participate in decision making and governance processes has progressed in the last three years because the proportion of eligible Australians enrolled to vote has increased. In 2013, 91% of eligible Australians were enrolled to vote. This is higher than the proportion three years earlier in 2010 which was 90%.



**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that it is important that everyone has the opportunity to participate in decision-making that affects their lives. People thought that participation was important at all levels of society, from formal interactions, such as with government or business sectors, to community level interactions. Participation in decision-making was also seen as a personal responsibility by Australians.

**Eligible Australians enrolled to vote**



**Source:**

Australian Electoral Commission, National enrolment figures by state/territory, viewed 23 September 2013



**A DATA GAP  
CURRENTLY  
EXISTS FOR  
INFORMED  
PUBLIC  
DEBATE**

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO  
WELL-INFORMED  
AND VIBRANT  
PUBLIC DEBATE

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that public debate should allow a diversity of voices and views to be heard and considered, and that information should be reported accurately, clearly and not be biased by conflicts of interest. They saw public debate as occurring in many places, for example through the media and electronic information sharing channels, as well as parliamentary and political debating platforms. For this to happen effectively, they thought that these platforms should be effectively regulated whilst allowing people the freedom to access information.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment can not be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing informed public debate, but the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.





**A DATA GAP  
CURRENTLY  
EXISTS FOR  
PEOPLE'S  
RIGHTS AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

AUSTRALIANS  
ASPIRE TO A  
SOCIETY WHERE  
EVERYONE'S  
RIGHTS ARE  
UPHELD AND THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITIES  
FULFILLED

**Why is this theme important?**

Australians told us that their rights and responsibilities, as defined and protected by national laws, were important. Australians also thought that international human rights conventions were important and relevant. Many people in the consultation aspired to have their rights upheld by Australian governance systems, and wanted justice systems and processes to be fair and accessible to all Australians. They saw this as a reciprocal relationship, with everyone having the responsibility to abide by Australia's laws. People in the consultation also valued Australia's democratic system of representational government as a means of ensuring rights and responsibilities are upheld and enable participation.



In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

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3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We consider this theme to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. This being the case, while we will continue to consider this area of progress, there is no guarantee that we will have a progress indicator for it in the future.

