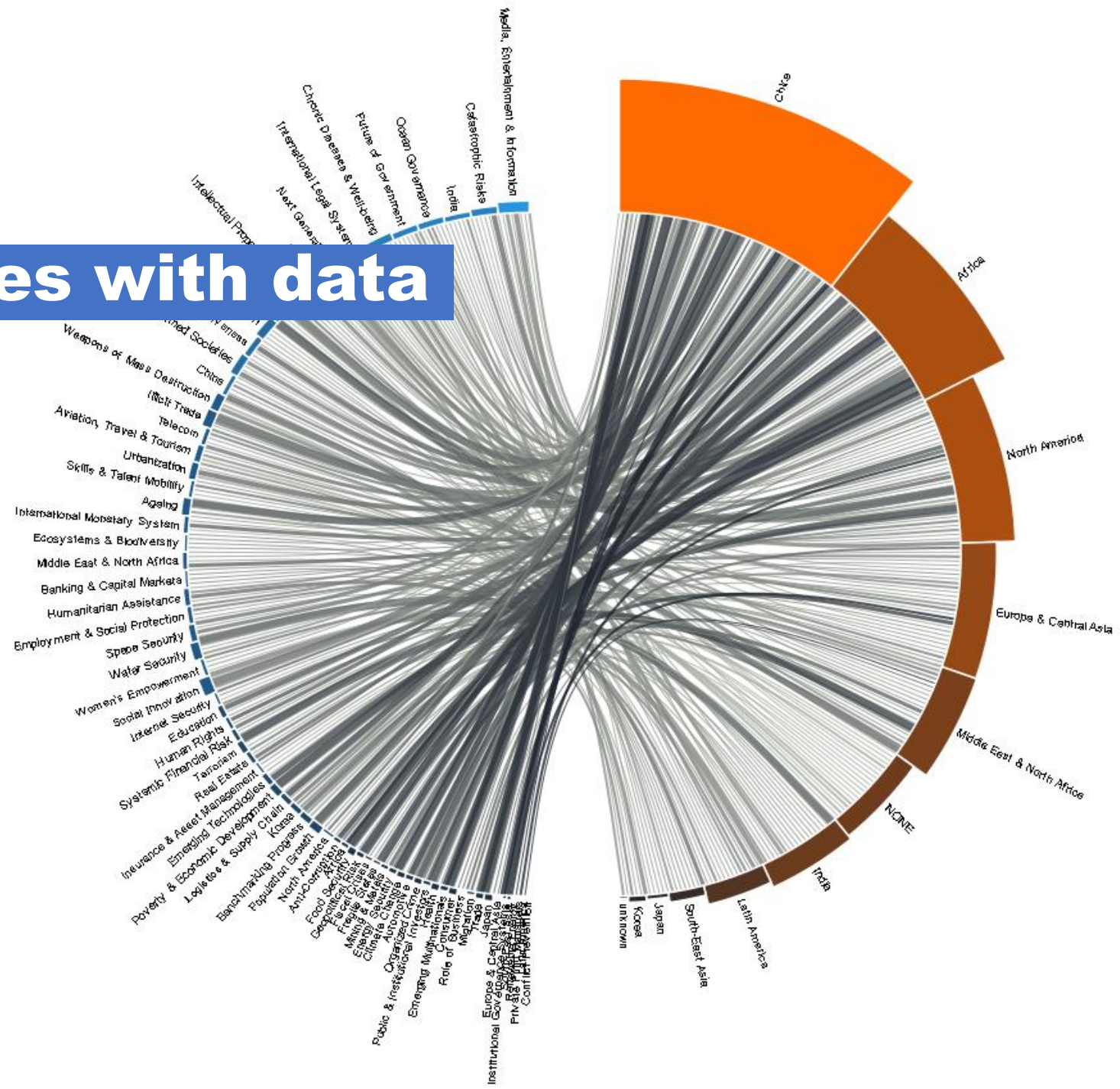# Indicators of Community Wellbeing

Southern and Hills LGA

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Difficulties with data

Indicators

Theoretically sound
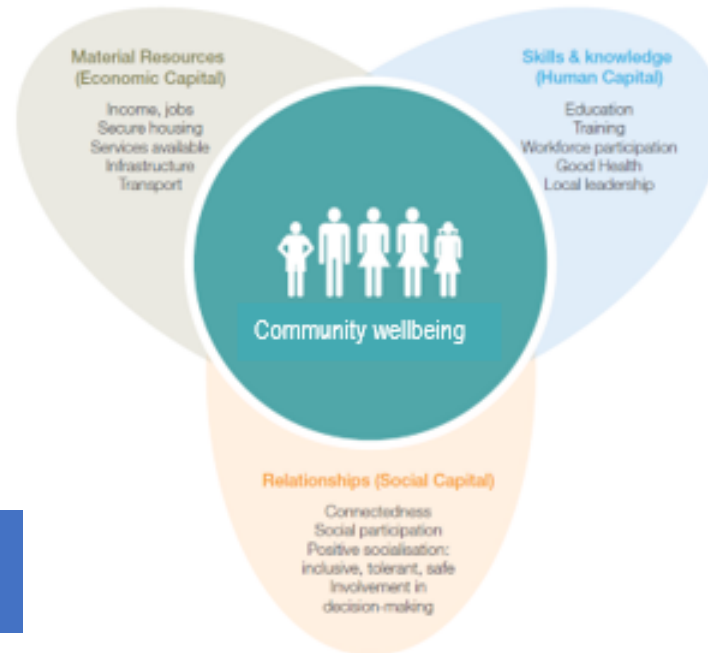
Commonly understood

Technically accurate

Local governments can:

Theoretically sound

Improve access to economic resources through actions that support:

- **environmental sustainability**

- **jobs or enterprise** – planning and amenity (to attract industry), actions to support people to work locally, etc

- **reduce cost of living** – low-cost services, free Wi-Fi, etc.

Improve access to health, education and cultural (human capital) resources through actions that support:

- **life-long learning** – playgrounds, libraries, etc.

- **health and wellbeing** – infrastructure for sport, exercise and active transport, facilities for health and support services, etc.

- **community transport and internet**

Material Resources (Economic Capital)

Income, jobs
Secure housing
Services available
Infrastructure
Transport

Skills & knowledge (Human Capital)

Education
Training
Workforce participation
Good Health
Local leadership

Community wellbeing

Relationships (Social Capital)

Connectedness
Social participation
Positive socialisation:
inclusive, tolerant, safe
Involvement in
decision-making

Improve access to social capital building resources through actions that support:

- **participation cultures**: recreation/community facilities that encourage participation and connection and house volunteer associations and clubs,

- **civic entrepreneurs and local governance capabilities**: civic buildings, innovation places, etc. [1]

Commonly understood: stories

Review of Council Plans

Workshops: 30 local government officers

S & Hills LGA

Technically accurate

Workshops: 60 stakeholders

Additional information and case studies for context

Data development for gaps

Indicators of Community Wellbeing for the Southern and Hills Local Government Area

June 2020

The health of our environment

Our communities report nature is important to them

1. Tree canopy coverage

Our communities want a sustainable future

2. Greenhouse gas emissions
3. Household recycling
4. Recycled water

The opportunities in our places

Our communities want services that make places liveable

5. Growth of jobs and businesses
6. Internet access
7. Cultural and community facilities – visits to libraries

Our communities want access to opportunities for all

8. Low-income households
9. Transport disadvantaged households
10. Rental and mortgage stress
11. Residents who feel unsafe on their street alone after dark
12. Residents who report public spaces are in accessible
13. Residents who report discrimination

The strength of our communities

Our communities value social connection/participation

14. Social isolation
15. Participation in community groups
16. Volunteers

Our communities want opportunities for play, exercise and recreation

17. Developmentally on track in first year of school (children)
18. Physically active (adults)
19. Walkability of areas

Our communities want to have a say

20. Voting in local elections.

The health of our environment

Our communities report nature is important to them

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1

Tree coverage

No target for regional South Australia. Tree canopy cover is an indicator of nature, tree planting and tree loss. Trees protect our health through: environmental protection (carbon storage, air pollution removal, air temperature control, wind reduction, flood mitigation, noise reduction), infrastructure protection (cooling buildings/road/street infrastructure (reducing costs)), wildlife protection, and improvements in our mental and physical health. Tree coverage has been declining as land use patterns change with population growth. Protecting and enhancing our urban and rural tree canopy is integral to healthy, ecologically diverse and vibrant places.

Source: Benchmarking Australia's Tree Canopy 2104

DATA GAP

Heat and tree canopy maps currently only complete for Adelaide, but measures are **forthcoming**

LGAs

Adelaide Hills	44%
Alexandrina	n/a
Kangaroo Island	n/a
Mount Barker	n/a
Victor Harbor	n/a
Yankalilla	n/a

Nature maps – native vegetation in green, agricultural land in yellow, plantations in brown

Source: Enviro Data SA Nature maps

Case study #1: Animal and bird biodiversity

Birds and animals are beloved by communities, and a vital part of healthy ecosystems. The last South Australian government species loss strategy (2007) reported a quarter (24%) of our native animal species are threatened including:
- 54% of mammals (46/85)
- 22% of birds (106/485)
- 17% of reptiles (24/144)
- 12% of amphibians (2/17)
- 11% of fish (4/36).

Developing new indicators: nature

Other indicators of biodiversity and access to nature are not currently available but could be developed from the Healthy Parks Healthy People South Australia 2021-26 framework written as part of the Public Health Partner Authority Agreement between Wellbeing SA and the South Australian Government Department for Environment and Water.

Condition of wetlands, and satisfaction with access to nature, are examples raised in our workshops.

Conservation areas

Source: South Australian Property and Planning Atlas

Case study #2: Visits to parks

The South Australian Parks Visitation Survey 2020 of 1054 South Australian residents found: 83% had visited a park and:
- The two most important values of parks were that they provide:
  - protection for native plants and animals or cultural heritage (54%)
  - community spaces for recreation, enjoyment and health (44%)
- People visited parks for (in order):
  - Experiencing nature and scenery (89%)
  - Walking (89%)
  - Socialising with friends (66%) or family (63%)
  - Learning about nature (60%)
  - Time by themselves (56%)
- People who did not visit parks were more likely to have a disability (twice as likely).

The opportunities in our places

Our communities want services that make places liveable

5. Growing industries – jobs and businesses
6. Access to internet
7. Cultural and community facilities – visits to libraries

Our communities want access to opportunities for all

8. Households on low incomes
9. Transport disadvantage
10. Housing affordability – rental and mortgage stress
11. Those who do not feel safe on the street after dark
12. Accessibility of public spaces
13. Discrimination

Housing stress (mortgage & rental)

Housing affordability is declining across the region, and disproportionately affects low-income earners. This measure examines the proportion of low-income households under housing stress. While local government has few levers over housing, it drives many other important local issues. As cheaper housing has increased in price faster than more expensive housing, and rentals have become less affordable, more households are in housing stress and home-ownership rates are falling among the young and low-income earners. This is causing some, including essential workers, to leave the region.

Source: Social Health Atlas for Australia: South Australian Local Government Areas, Australian Census of Population and Housing data

Regional SA   LGAs

21%

households in rental or mortgage stress

2016

↓

(24% 2011)

| LGAs		
Adelaide Hills	19%	738
Alexandrina	24%	1223
Kangaroo Island	23%	217
Mount Barker	30%	1267
Victor Harbor	23%	819
Yankalilla	24%	269
Gr Adelaide	29%	
Rest of SA	21%	

Proportion of households in the bottom 40% of the income distribution, spending more than 30% of their income on rent mortgage repayments or rent

Case study #4: Declining rental affordability in pictures

Rental affordability – households paying 30% of income on rent have a score of 100, indicating the critical threshold for housing stress – has been getting worse over time. These maps show the change for two income groups from 2015 to 2020.

2015

For those on annual incomes of **$95 000**, rentals have gone from very affordable (dark green)

Quarter 2, 2015

For those on annual incomes of **$40 000**, rentals have has gone from unaffordable (orange)

Quarter 2, 2015
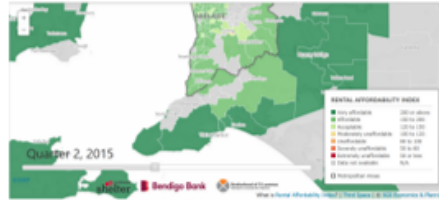
2020

… to affordable (light green)

Quarter 2, 2020

… to severely unaffordable (dark orange)

Quarter 2, 2020

Source: SGS Economics and Planning Rental Affordability Index

Developing new indicators: accessibility

Adelaide Hills and Mount Barker have designed access and inclusion surveys. If all councils ran surveys with similar questions, an indicator could be constructed:

- Do you think the public spaces are accessible for people with disabilities in the XXX area?
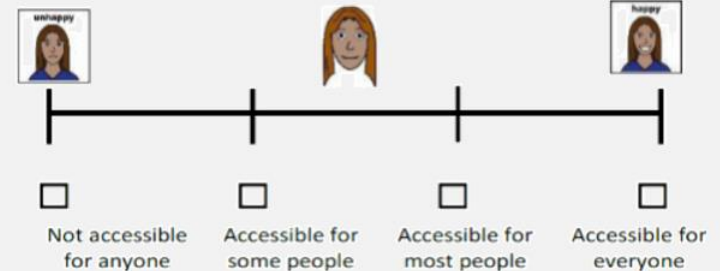- Do you think the public amenities are accessible for people with disabilities in the XXX area?

What is a public space?

park ☐   swimming pool ☐   Sporting grounds ☐   Playgrounds ☐   Footpaths/walking trails ☐

What are public amenities?

accessible toilet ☐

transport ☐

Accessible car park ☐

Please tick one of the boxes:

☐	☐	☐	☐
Not accessible for anyone	Accessible for some people	Accessible for most people	Accessible for everyone

The strength of our communities

Our communities value social connection/participation

14. Social isolation
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Our communities want opportunities for play, exercise and recreation

17. Developmentally on track in first year of school (children)
18. Physically active (adults)
19. Walkability of areas

Our communities want to have a say

20. Having a say in local government – voting in local elections.

17 Children not on track on development in first year of school (two or more domains)

The years before six are important for a young person's development. In Australia, every child's development is measured in their first year of school across five domains: physical, social, emotional, language and communication. The indicator describes children who are vulnerable on two or more of those domains.

Source: Australian Early Development Census, data explorer, every three years

South Aust.

13%

children developmentally vulnerable

2018

(12.2% 2015 & 2012)

LGAs

	2018
Adelaide Hills	10.3%↑
Alexandrina	15.8%↑
Kangaroo Island	15.6%→
Mount Barker	12.6%↑
Victor Harbor	14.0%↑
Yankalilla	10.4%↓

18 No or low physical activity

Physically activity is significantly associated with better physical and mental health, and active transport can produce community wellbeing outcomes through lower congestion, pollution, etc. Physical activity creates large cost savings for governments by avoiding expensive care services. An evidence review in Australia has shown some groups are more likely to be physically inactive, including:

» girls and women of all ages
» adults in regional and remote areas
» adults on lower incomes and children and young people in low socioeconomic status neighbourhoods
» people in urban environments that are not amenable to walking
» Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
» people with a disability, particularly in older age groups those over 65

Source: Social Health Atlas for Australia: South Australian Local Government Areas, Australian Census of Population and Housing data

Regional SA

33%

get low or no physical activity

2014

2018 available at cost

LGAs

Adelaide Hills	40.3%
Alexandrina	26.3%
Kangaroo Island	26.7%
Mount Barker	32.0%
Victor Harbor	31.1%
Yankalilla	31.1%
Gr Adelaide	33.0%
Rest of SA	26.8%

* **modelled estimates** from Australian Bureau of Statistics General Social Survey 2014, every 4 years

Developing new indicators: Heart Foundation walkability checklist

The Community Walkability Checklist allows residents to access walking routes they use in their neighbourhoods. Data is submitted to the Heart Foundation who compile it for Councils. The assessment rates areas on 'walker friendliness', comfort', convenience' and 'safety',

Local Government in Mexico City similarly mapped their public transport system using citizens to collect data across the city using their mobile phones.

These types of "citizen science" projects could make useful indicators that incorporate residents subjective satisfaction and needs in the measure.

Developing new indicators: cycling and open space

Report

Framework

Indicators of **outcomes** LG can influence (**not performance**)

Context to give users more confidence

Links to data sets

Ideas for data development

Next steps

Finalise 1st report

Consider options for next steps – conversations around systems building:

- Filling the data gaps

- Who hosts it

- How do we institutionalise it/sustainability