

Get in Touch

If you have questions or want to be part of the ASPI Network, contact:

Dr Megan Weier on m.weier@unsw.edu.au
or Lena Etuk on Letuk@unsw.edu.au
or go to our website at <http://amplify.csi.edu.au>

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Australian SOCIAL/PROGRESS Index

About Amplify Social Impact

The Australian Social Progress Index is part of Amplify Social Impact, an initiative of the Centre for Social Impact. Australia spends \$510bn per annum on social issues, resources are increasingly scarce and contested, and many complex social problems are not improving. There is limited capability and capacity to measure and understand whether the funding invested is decreasing social inequalities and leading to social change.

There is an urgent need to have a clear, singular vision of how, where, and for whom social impact is occurring.

Amplify is an innovative solution that aims to address complex social issues via a three-pillared approach:

1. Development of a research agenda to produce rigorous evidence about key social issues (the Insights Reports),
2. Engaging industry partners across the business, social business, not-for-profit, academic, and government sectors to identify and pursue innovative solutions (Connecting and Convening for Systems Change Events), and

3. Developing an online platform for: understanding if, where, and for whom social problems exist via the Australia's Social Pulse tool; understanding how we are progressing overall as a country via the Australian Social Progress Index; accurately measuring social impact via the Indicator Engine tool; and reporting and benchmarking social outcomes via the Yardstick tool.

Find out more at <http://amplify.csi.edu.au>



Beyond GDP alone, Australia needs an index that shows how the people and environment in each of our states and territories are faring. We need a measure of quality of life for people across the country.

Amplify Social Impact® in partnership with the Social Progress Imperative (SPI) have produced the first Australian Social Progress Index, which ranks states and territories on their social progress. This online resource will provide the first ever holistic measure of Australia's social performance that is independent of economic factors. It will show the performance of our states and territories as aligned to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

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The Australian Social Progress Index (ASPI) is an online resource that will give everyone the ability to learn about and understand the basic needs of people across the country, and whether they're being met. It will highlight the foundations for wellbeing and will reveal which areas are flourishing, and which areas need help.

The index will be created using the following indicators. These will work together to create a picture of social progress in Australia.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX – TIME SERIES 2015–2018

DIMENSION	COMPONENT	GUIDING QUESTION	INDICATOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATA SOURCE	
BASIC HUMAN NEEDS	Nutrition & Basic Medical Care	Do people have enough food to eat and are they receiving basic medical care?	Infant mortality	The number of deaths of children under one year of age in a specified period per 1,000 live births in the same period.	ABS Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates	
			Pneumococcal**	Notification rate of Pneumococcal, per 100,000	Department of Health National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System	
			Rotavirus	Notification rate of rotavirus, per 100,000	Department of Health National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System	
			Premature mortality (<65)	Potential years of life lost, per 100 000 of the population aged 1–64	ABS Deaths Register and Rates	
			Indigenous mortality rates	Rate ratio between Indigenous and non-Indigenous standardised death rates, per 100,000 people	ABS Deaths Register and Rates	
	Water & Sanitation	Can people drink water and keep themselves clean without getting sick?	Waterborne diseases – Shigellosis	Notification rates per 100,000 of shigellosis	Department of Health National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System	
			Waterborne diseases – Cryptosporidiosis	Notification rates per 100,000 of cryptosporidiosis	Department of Health National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System	
			Waterborne diseases – Salmonella	Notification rates per 100,000 of salmonella	Department of Health National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System	
			Water interruption**	Average frequency of unplanned interruptions – water (no per 1000 properties) (averaged over providers)	Bureau of Meteorology Urban National Performance Report	
	Shelter	Do people have adequate housing with basic utilities?	Homelessness service use	Rate of clients accessing homelessness services per 10,000 residents	AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services	
			Social housing tenancy	Rate of people living in social housing, per 10,000 of the population	AIHW Housing Assistance in Australia	
			Overcrowding	Proportion of households with more than 2 people per bedroom	HILDA	
	Personal Safety	Do people feel safe?	Perceived safety at home at night	Perceptions of safety at home at night Index score	Federal Productivity Commission Report on Government Services	
			Victimization – physical assault	Rate of persons who experienced physical assault in last 12 months (per 10,000)	ABS Crime Victimization Survey	
			Crime rates – acts to cause injury	Offender rate of recorded acts intended to cause injury	ABS Recorded Crime	
			Crime rates – youth	Offender rate of all recorded crime committed by youth	ABS Recorded Crime	
	FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING	Access to Basic Knowledge	Do people have access to an educational foundation?	NAPLAN – Numeracy Year 9	Proportion of population achieving below the national minimum standard for writing	NAPLAN
				NAPLAN Reading Indigenous – Year 9	Difference in Proportion of population achieving below the national minimum standard for reading – Indigenous cf non-Indigenous	NAPLAN
Apparent retention rates for students, Year 7/8 – Year II by state/territory				Apparent retention rates for students, Year 7/8 – Year II	ACARA National report on Schooling in Australia	
Access to early childhood education				Proportion of children aged 4–5 enrolled in preschool program (%)	ABS Children enrolled in preschool program	
Gap in student attendance rate – Indigenous compared to non-Indigenous students**				Gap in student attendance rate years 1–10 – Indigenous to non-Indigenous students	ACARA National report on school attendance	
Access to Information & Communications		Can people freely access ideas and information?	Digital access	Digital access score in Digital inclusion index	Digital Inclusion Index	
			Digital affordability	Digital affordability score in Digital inclusion index	Digital Inclusion Index	
			Digital ability	Digital ability score in Digital inclusion index	Digital Inclusion Index	
			Registered library users	Total number of registered or active members (need to calculate as %)	NSLA Annual Australian Public Library Statistics	

** Indicator subject to change
Indicators are current as of June 2019, and may change due to feedback, modelling, or data quality

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX – TIME SERIES 2015–2018

DIMENSION	COMPONENT	GUIDING QUESTION	INDICATOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATA SOURCE
FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING	Health & Wellness	Do people live long and healthy lives?	Community mental health treatment	Patient rate per 1,000 population receiving community mental health care	AIHW Mental Health Services
			Suicide	Standardised death rate due to self-harm (suicide)	ABS Causes of Death
			Respiratory mortality	Age-standardised death rate due to respiratory disease (Codes I00–I99)	ABS Causes of Death
			Diabetes mortality	Age-standardised death rate due to diabetes (Codes E10–E14)	ABS Causes of Death
			Cancer mortality	Age-standardised death rate due to cancer-neoplasms (Codes C00–D48)	ABS Causes of Death
			Cardiovascular mortality	Age-standardised death rate (persons) due to diseases of the circulatory system (Codes I00–I99)	ABS Causes of Death
	Environmental Quality	Is this society using its resources so they will be available to future generations?	Carbon monoxide concentrations	Median daily maximum rolling 8 hour average concentrations of carbon monoxide, averaged across monitoring stations	State Environment agencies
			Nitrogen dioxide concentrations	Median daily maximum 1 hour average concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, averaged across monitoring stations	State Environment agencies
			Sulfur dioxide concentrations	Median daily maximum 1 hour average concentrations of sulfur dioxide, averaged across monitoring stations	State Environment agencies
			PM10 concentrations	Median 24 hour concentrations of PM10, averaged across monitoring stations	State Environment agencies
OPPORTUNITY	Personal Rights	Are people's rights as individuals protected?	PM2.5 concentrations**	Median 24 hour concentrations of PM2.5, averaged across monitoring stations	State Environment agencies
			Tree cover loss**	Percentage decrease in tree cover compared to 2000 tree cover extent (>30% tree canopy)	Global Forest Watch
			Voter registration	Proportion of eligible adults enrolled to vote (%)	Australian Electoral Commission enrolment statistics
			Police integrity	Police integrity – total proportion in agreement with 'police treat people fairly and equally' (%)	Federal Productivity Commission Report on Government Services
	Personal Freedom & Choice	Are people free to make their own life choices?	Crime rates – sexual assault and related offences	Offender rate of recorded sexual assault and related offences	ABS Recorded Crime
			Teen pregnancy	Rate of 15–19 year old women who gave birth (per 1,000)	ABS Births and Deaths Statistics
			Abuse substantiations – Indigenous disparity	Rate ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received	AIHW Child Protection Australia
	Inclusiveness	Is no one excluded from the opportunity to be a contributing member of society?	Out of home care/separation from parents – Indigenous	Rate ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous children in out of home care (per 1,000)	AIHW Child Protection Australia
			Public transport safety**	Perceptions of safety on public transport Index score	Federal Productivity Commission Report on Government Services
			Gender pay gap	Female total cash earnings, expressed as a percentage of men's total cash earnings.	ABS Average Weekly Earnings
Access to Advanced Education	Do people have the opportunity to access the world's most advanced knowledge?	Gender employment underutilisation	The difference between women's and men's underutilisation rate, expressed as a ratio of female to male underutilisation	ABS Labour Force Survey	
		Volunteering	Proportion of people who reporting volunteering for more than half an hour a week	HILDA	
		Satisfaction with connection to community	Proportion of people who are satisfied with feeling part of the community	HILDA	
		Post high school enrolment	Proportion of the population aged 15–64 who are attending higher education, TAFE or other institution/organisation (not secondary) (%)	Survey of Education and Work, ABS	
			Educational attainment per population	Proportion of population 20–64 with post-school qualification	Survey of Education and Work, ABS
			NEET	Proportion of 15–24 year olds who are not fully or partially engaged in employment or study	Survey of Education and Work, ABS
			Higher education achievement – gender	Proportion of women with a bachelor degree or above as a ratio to men with a bachelor degree or above aged 20–64	Survey of Education and Work, ABS

HOW YOU CAN USE THE INDEX:

- Use it with your peers as a common language to build momentum for your common cause – the advancement of social progress across Australia
- Use the index results to show that you've been contributing to achievements in your state/territory
- Advocate for continued attention to important social issues that could threaten the progress of your state/territory
- Use the index results to amplify your cause