

TREASURY – MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

I write to express my wish that Treasury measure those things within the governmental sphere that have the ability to impact positively and negatively upon the rights and wellbeing of the individual Australian citizen.

I caution Treasury that legislation and associated measurement, that might study group demographics, should not overlook the paramount importance of the individual in a free, pluralistic sense. We are 'ourselves' primarily before we are any 'group' identity secondarily. Collectivism should never trump individualism.

I wish that my submission is not made confidential and so published publicly.

The submission requirements are that submissions "emphasise the key points so that they are clear". I wish to make clear the tenets "charity begins at home" and that "there is no morality without reciprocity" – which is to say that I value and privilege the negotiated outcome of individuals above the legislated and enforced outcomes of a government or collective. The natural strength of Australia is its citizens and their families above imposed, forced interventions by outside collectives.

For the avoidance of confusion I see the forced taxation of citizens to fund all things beyond that which safeguards the rights of the citizenry as detrimental or less ideal to the social good.

To frame my submission for those readers not schooled in the social sciences I would use the sporting analogy whereby the government owns the whistle but not the ball – the government itself is not a player in such free flowing commercial exchange that leads to maximal points scored (or dollars earned)! The government ensures a good, fair game by protecting people's rights via sound law and sound judiciary!

I hold that the single greatest anchor on the flourishing of Australian citizenry and associated taxation of industriousness is the **Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCAFCOA)**. The court is not accountable in that its orders are not measured against outcomes that it might consider the 'best interest of children', nor the best interest of the children's parental industriousness (i.e flourishing).

Recommendations:

- Measure ongoing (ideally annually) ATO individual tax receipts/filings for a meaningful sample of male and female citizens that have entered into the FCAFCOA system.
 - Why? The temporal, anecdotal evidence today is that family court justice (or injustice) saps individual striving significantly and with large measurable impact upon ATO tax receipts.
- Measure FCAFCOA touchpoints (inside, say, last 5 years) and other governmental touchpoints (i.e. police, court, Medicare, Centrelink, etc) of suicides.
 - Why? The role of government constitutionally is to protect the constitutional rights of the individual citizen. **Suicide Prevention Australia** has called for the measurement of governmental touchpoints immediately surrounding the suicide of Australians, the anecdotal, temporal inferences pointing toward government touchpoints exacerbating suicide. [Response to David Leyonhjelm's opinion piece in the Australian Financial Review - Suicide Prevention Australia](#)
 - SPA "Actively mapping the journey of males who have died by suicide to identify Government agency touchpoints"

- Measure homes of children with primary care being other than both parents. “Single parenting” might be through no father on birth certificate, parent death and court order. Measure court orders for shared parenting (50/50) vs unequal time vs sole custody.
 - Why? Qualitative and quantitative ‘single parent’ outcomes in countries that legislate for parental equality by default in family separation show better outcomes for children, parents and the tax office. (e.g. Sweden, Norway) The world’s worst alternative to legislated equality of parenting time might be the USA (Australia beware!) whereby 90% of US runaways and homeless come from single parent households, similarly 68% of teen suicide and 70% of teen pregnancy. Further, children of US single mothers are twenty times more likely to be incarcerated and eleven times more likely to exhibit violent behaviour. (US bureau of statistics show no deviation from the mean for single father households.)
 - Australia’s ever ongoing discontents shown in post family court outcome surveys suggests citizens do not believe in the fairness of the courts and that we should, perhaps, compare ourselves to countries with minimal discontents (Sweden, Norway) to align Australian legislation with what matters to individuals and their families.
 - Measuring mental health associated Medicare costs of parents and children with family court touchpoints might prove useful for identifying if family courts help or hinder mental health outcomes in Australia.
- Measure trends in (male and female) circumcision in Medicare reimbursement’s to doctors.
 - Why? Genital cutting of minors is claimable upon the public purse for therapeutic but not cosmetic reasons yet circumcisions Medicare receipts are so high as to suggest doctors are flouting the distinction. There should also be statistical separation between circumcision of minors and those (older) people undergoing voluntary surgeries.
- Measure medical interventions and costs related to gender re-assignment. Measure medical interventions and costs for gender re-assignment reversals. Separate statistics by private funding and those reimbursed under Medicare.
 - Why? To understand if gender dysphoria is a growing phenomena and if surgery is the best, most ethical way treat or whether alternate therapies should be used until such time as the individual’s brain is fully developed (typically 25 years of age) such that they can make a properly considered decision about their body. I would think no public monies should be spent in Australia on gender re-assignment interventions given what the British NHS discovered in 2022 about the problems at its Tavistock Centre in London. ([NHS to close Tavistock child gender identity clinic - BBC News](#))
- Measure Australian ‘All cause mortality’ against other countries and their federal health costs on a per capita basis.
 - Why? Australia’s finances are finite and accrue from taxes. To maximise the ‘health’ return on federal health spend the federal government should know where it can improve and this is where sharing and comparing health department statistics is important. For example, Sweden and India had a different approaches to Australia on their governmental response to COVID-19. Where Australia’s position was to measure and publish COVID-19 related statistics and preference vaccinations, Sweden and India’s approach differed in that it was more wholistic, it considered All Cause Mortality ahead of COVID-19 alone and allowed for greater response choice with citizens free to move about and work, to take vaccines but also to try therapeutics that compliment the bodies natural immune system. Most importantly

there was less force and coercion in Sweden and India, the government's focus was on the most vulnerable (elderly with co-morbidities) and their 'All Cause Mortality' statistics suggest Australia could learn a lot from their approach (as Australia's all cause mortality is well above pre COVID-19 levels!).

- Understanding citizenry life-stages of where Australia and other nations governments spend money on public health and intervention priorities. The inference being there is an evolving best practice that can be gained by sharing health metrics meta data. Example, if other nations prioritize 'fasting' cancer therapies (effectively nil or close to nil cost) before surgery, radiation or chemotherapy (high cost) and get better survival rates for less cost, then Australia should similarly prioritize such efficient treatments. Likewise if other nations do not fund/reimburse mammograms or invasive cancer treatments, etc, for those above a certain age is there something for Australia and its citizens to gain by understanding the overseas experience/methods?
- Measuring individual ATO income tax receipts against education level, institution, location and cost.
 - Why? It is useful for the consumer and the government to understand employment success likely (based upon historical income data from the ATO) upon graduate study. Example, if TAFE trade courses (i.e. plumber, electrician, boilermaker, etc) are leading to better year 1, 5 and 10 year pay outcomes than those doing a Bachelors degree in a white-collar profession then this would shape young peoples actions on where and what to study and may also shape where the government might invest in public training institutions.
- Measuring Australian student grade point average and average cost of public schooling years 5 to 12 against other countries.
 - Why? If Australian student grade points fall or rise independent of costs and teacher salaries then extra spending should be questioned in the light of other countries experiences. If Australia were to adopt a competition education model whereby the government funds the student and not the school (i.e. like USA Charter Schools) then it should be required that such a model's success can be shown to be better model than funding the school directly and also "world class".
- Measuring motorcycle use on toll roads and how use is shaped by toll costs.
 - Why? Motorcycle's have a lower "foot print" on the flow and wear of toll roads – the average Australian car has a "foot print" that equates to circa 6-8 motorcycles/scooters and why they should be considered part of the solution to traffic jams. Scooters are a large part of traffic amelioration in Europe and in Asia. High tolls for motorcycles in Australia (and high registration costs too) may increase traffic jams as riders choose to drive their car instead of taking their motorcycle on trips.

Best regards,

James Jackson

