



Jobs Australia

| POLICY | INFLUENCE | SUPPORT |

THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL PEAK BODY FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Jobs Australia proudly supports Australian not for profit organisations

What works? Addressing the structural barriers to employment

**CURRENT POLICY SETTINGS: ADDRESS
UNEMPLOYMENT WHILE REMAINING
IGNORANT OF THE IMPACT OF
WELLBEING**

TO KNOW A SOLUTION, WE NEED TO KNOW THE PROBLEM

Contemporary narratives on improving employment invariably rely on the use of macro-economic levers, such as stimulus and rate cuts from the RBA

- the Australian 17 July - Weakening jobs market the trigger for another rate cut
- The conversation, 8 July - **What we missed while we looked away – the growth of long-term unemployment**
- AFR 28 June: **Unemployment rate needs to be 4pc to get wages up: Labor**
- The Australian 21 June: RBA: rate cuts won't grow jobs
- The Sydney Morning Herald 14 June: **Jobs data moves RBA closer to another rate cut**

PULL A LEVER, FIX A PROBLEM

- Macroeconomic levers might generate growth in various sectors and opportunities for the 'job ready' to transition into employment.
- Potential positive impact upon the less vulnerable short term unemployed.
- The job ready, short term unemployed fit the government's narrative that Newstart is a short term safety net - transitional
- PM Morrison, ABC Breakfast April 2019, "What we're doing is getting those people in record numbers who are on Newstart into jobs — that's the best form of welfare".

A FAIR GO?

- The impact of unemployment on the economy vs the individual experience of unemployment.
- Those experiencing long term unemployment viewed as not helping themselves.
- ‘If you have a go, you get a go’
- Government and policy makers seek to understand employment without understanding the lived experience of unemployment, or the agencies that support jobseekers



DOING IT TOUGH ON \$200,000K

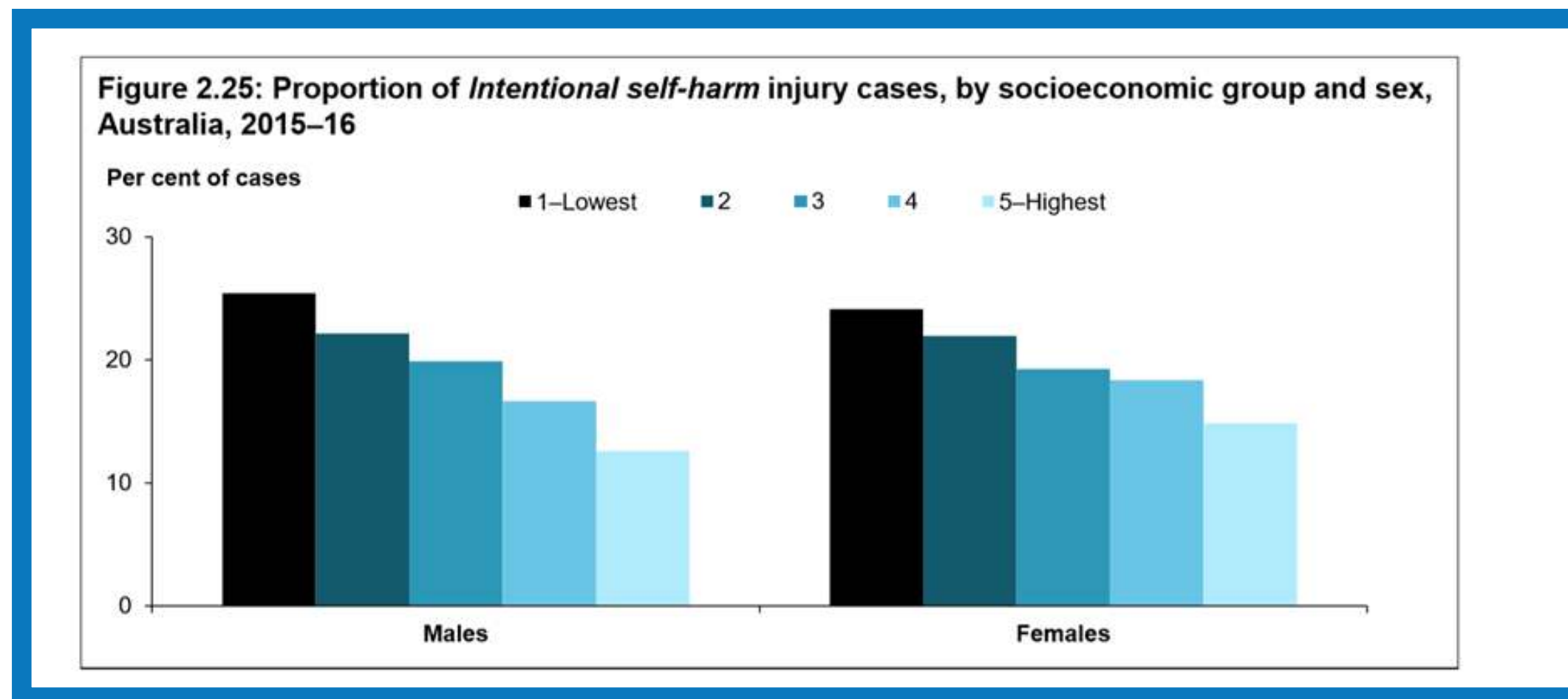
- [The Australian \(24/7\)](#): Nationals leader's solution to low Newstart rates: move to Dubbo
- We need a mobile workforce, willing to relocate to accommodate industrial demand
- Purported industrial demand is being cited in defence of retaining the low payment, noting that Newstart recipients are choosing not to work by remaining where they are.
- Such a view ignores the pre-existing familial and support networks and ignores the lived experience.

LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

- Over the past decade the rate of long term unemployment has almost doubled from 0.7% (2009) to 1.35% (2016)
- A larger portion of jobseekers remain on Newstart in the long term
- Government's New Employment Services Model aims to transition the job ready to digital self service and **provide greater support for the remaining jobseekers**

LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT = ENTRENCHED POVERTY

Various sources highlight what we all know as the enduring deleterious circumstances resulting from the experience of entrenched poverty



No. of Affordable Rental Listings

In 69,000 cases studied

317 Single person on disability support pension	75 Single parent on Newstart	2 Single person on Newstart, in a share house
1 Single person on Youth Allowance, in a share house	0 Newstart or Youth Allowance in any major city or regional centre	

THE FEED *ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA

LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT = ENTRENCHED POVERTY (CONT...)

Higher health risk factors are evident among those in outer regional and remote areas.

Table 1

Health risk factors	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional/ Remote
Current daily smoker	13%	17%	21%
Overweight or obese	61%	69%	69%
No/low levels of exercise	64%	70%	72%
Exceed lifetime alcohol risk guideline	16%	18%	23%
High blood pressure	22%	27%	24%

18% of Australians have experienced ‘food insecurity over the past 12 months’, with those living in remote areas 33% more likely than metropolitan.

Table 2

Disease type	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional/ Remote
Arthritis	14%	20%	18%
Back pain and problems	16%	18%	16%
Asthma	10%	12%	12%
COPD	2.4%	3.4%	2.7%
Blindness	0.5%	0.9%	0.8%
Deafness	9.8%	15%	14%
Diabetes	4.7%	6.0%	6.7%
CVD	4.7%	6.7%	5.8%
Cancer	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%
Mental health problems	17%	19%	19%

ON NT

- NT has unique structural challenges which are not as evident in other areas of Australia
- The tyranny of isolation, distance and environmental elements (opportunity to comment on your related member visits)
- The challenges of higher rates of unemployment in vastly remote areas among cohorts experiencing multiple morbidities
- Employment growth over the next five years – lowest growth predictions nationally
- Darwin – 4.6% (cap. city national av. 7.8%)
- Regional NT – 4.5% (regional national av. 5.7%)
- The rate of employment for Aboriginal people is lower in NT than any other jurisdiction in Australia

SOLUTIONS: 1. FAIR WORK AND STRONG COMMUNITIES

- motivating people through paid work not penalties
- Aims for long-term improvements in employment rates and increased incomes
- Funds the creation of jobs.
- Has Indigenous control at all levels of the program.
- Fair Work and Strong Communities would create at least 12,000 new jobs in remote communities, with the scheme adapted to local circumstances.

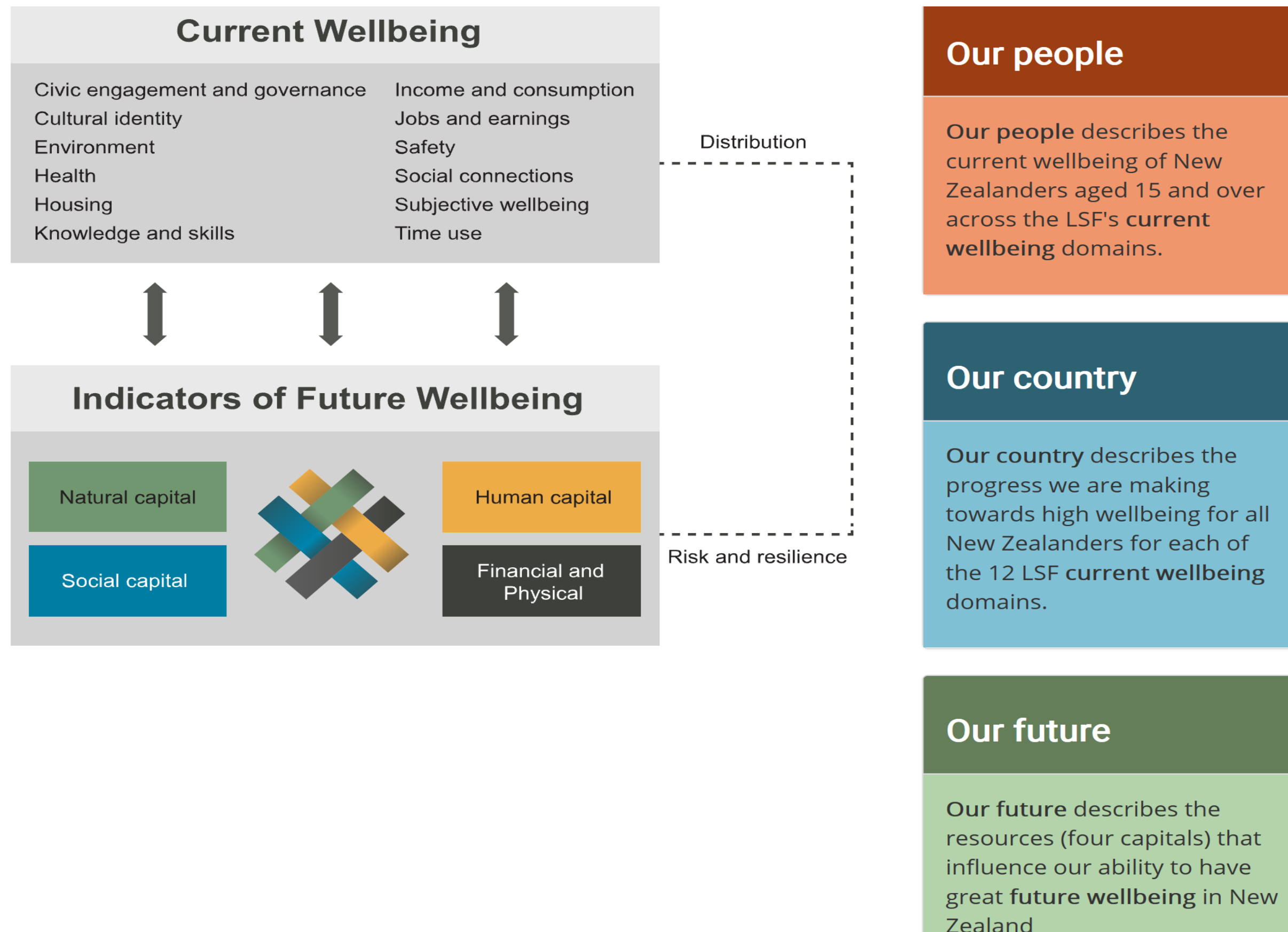
See: <https://www.fairworkstrongcommunities.org/>



SOLUTIONS 2: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF WELLBEING

- Social Determinants of Wellbeing; the following principles have guided my practice throughout my working life
 - Social justice
 - Food and shelter
 - Employment
 - Health
- Jobseekers, particularly those in remote areas, in the NT and elsewhere, have experienced significant limitations regarding these determinants
- While Australian budgets are defined by surpluses, back in black, cuts to services, including employment services the NZ budget is informed by a Dashboard of wellbeing measures

NZ – THE WELLBEING BUDGET



The NZ model necessitates Portfolios to collaborate to achieve a wellbeing target in order to be successful in pitching for funding from Treasury

UK – MEASURES OF NATIONAL WELLBEING DASHBOARD

Office for National Statistics

English (EN) | [Cymraeg \(CY\)](#)

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Home > People, population and community > Well-being > Measures of National Well-being Dashboard

Measures of National Well-being Dashboard

It monitors and reports how the UK is doing by producing accepted and trusted measures for the different areas of life that matter most to the UK public.

4 February 2019

The UK measure remains a means of measurement and has not been inculcated into the budgetary process (recent leadership changes make this unlikely in the short term)

MOVING FORWARD

- Successive Australian governments remain ignorant to the realities of jobseekers, in both remote and metropolitan regions
- The politicising of disadvantage blames the job seeker
- We need to replace the politics of disadvantage with a focus on wellbeing

