

Social cohesion

Social cohesion refers to the interrelatedness and unity between the individuals, groups and associations that exist within society. This unity is established through social relationships based on trust, shared values, feelings of belonging and the expectation of reciprocity. However, given the diversity of values and relationships that exist in a pluralist society, a high degree of unity between some individuals and groups may result in the mistrust or exclusion of others. Therefore inequalities and exclusion (of self or others) are to be minimised for society as a whole to be truly cohesive.

Indicators in this framework

- [National Disability Agreement: e\(1\)-Proportion of the potential population of people with disability who report a need for more formal assistance, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: e\(2\)-Proportion of people with disability who are satisfied with the range of organised and formal service options available, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: e\(3\)-Proportion of people with disability who are satisfied with the quality of assistance received from organised and formal services in the last six months, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: i\(3\)-Proportion of carers of people with disability who are satisfied with the quality of assistance received from organised and formal services, for the person with disability and the carer \(last 6 months\), 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: d\(1\)-Proportion of the potential population who used State/Territory delivered disability support services, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: f\(1\)-Rate of non-Indigenous persons and Indigenous persons admitted to permanent residential aged care, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: f\(2\)-Number of non-Indigenous persons and Indigenous persons receiving permanent residential aged care services, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: f\(3\)-Number of non-Indigenous persons and Indigenous persons who separated from permanent residential aged care to return home/family, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: h\(1\)-Proportion of primary carers of people with disability who feel satisfied with their caring role, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: h\(2\)-Proportion of primary carers of people with disability who do not experience negative impacts on their wellbeing due to their caring role, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: i\(1\)-Proportion of primary carers of people with disability who report a need for further assistance in their caring roles, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: i\(2\)-Proportion of carers of people with disability who are satisfied with the range of organised and formal services options available to help them in their caring role, 2013](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

Dimensions of this framework

• **Community and civic engagement**

Community and civic engagement can be expressed in various ways, such as being involved in the community or political life, or through volunteering. Community and civic engagement not only allows individuals to have a say in the future direction of their communities but also promotes a cohesive network of people from various backgrounds. The networks formed within the confines of civic engagement are often seen as more formal than those that exist through family and friends. Due to the nature of these formal bonds, the community ties may not be as strong as informal bonds, although they may be more far-reaching. That is, while individuals may not have overly strong relationships that are established through community and civic engagement, more diversity and understanding is established throughout the community through the socialisation of people from various backgrounds who may not otherwise communicate or interact.

Indicators in this framework

- [National Disability Agreement: i-Proportion of carers of people with disability who are satisfied with the range of disability service options and quality of support received, 2012 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 23/05/2013

• **Family formation and functioning**

Families are the core unit of society in which people are supported and cared for and social values are developed. The role of each member within a family can be affected by changes in family situations and changes in the formation of the family itself. How well families function is a key factor in their ability to nurture personal wellbeing and serve as the basis for a cohesive society.

The structure of Australian families has undergone considerable transformation over recent years, reflecting wider social, demographic and economic changes. Further sub-dimensions include: social marriage status, family composition and age-specific and divorce rates. Together, they illustrate some of the main ways in which the concept of family continues to develop and change.

• **Social and support networks**

Social and support networks are the connections between individuals and groups. These networks refer to the informal relationships people have with family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and other members of their community. Support networks can act in a variety of ways, such as provision of information or emotional, practical or financial support, and these in turn provide individuals with a sense of belonging.

Indicators in this framework

- [National Disability Agreement: b\(1\)-Proportion of people with disability who participate in social and community activities, 2012 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 23/05/2013
- [National Disability Agreement: b\(2\)-Proportion of people with disability who participate in social and community activities, 2012 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 23/05/2013
- [National Disability Agreement: b\(3\)-Proportion of people with disability who participate in social and community activities, 2012 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 23/05/2013
- [National Disability Agreement: b\(1\)-Proportion of people with disability who had face-to-face contact with ex-household family or friends in the previous week, 2013 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: b\(2\)-Proportion of people with disability who travelled to a social activity in the last two weeks, 2013 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [National Disability Agreement: b\(3\)-Proportion of people with disability who report the main reason for not leaving home as often as they would like is their disability or condition, 2013 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

• **Trust**

Trust lies at the heart of all positive relationships, whether between individuals or groups, and as such is a key

dimension of social capital. People's trust in others is often described with reference to the type of relationship: interpersonal trust refers to individuals well known to them, social trust refers to casual acquaintances or strangers, and civic trust refers to public or high-profile institutions.