



Chapter 9 – Indicators of Australia's welfare

Indicators are simple statistics that summarise complex issues. They give us a snapshot of results in key areas and are useful in helping us to ask questions to better understand why the results are the way they are.

Key points

Favourable trends seen across many indicators of our welfare

- When it comes to many indicators of welfare, Australia is doing well or improving. These include:
 - Air quality
 - Nearly two-thirds of us rate our overall life satisfaction as high
 - Home internet access
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
 - Around 86% of families report good to excellent family cohesion
 - Prevalence of disability
 - Household crime
- However, the trends are less favourable across other indicators, such as:
 - Volunteering rates
 - Lower income households experiencing rental stress
 - Youth unemployment rates

How do we compare internationally?

Australia performs very well against many measures of wellbeing, compared with most other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD).

Of the 35 countries included, Australia is:

- Ranked number 1 (top ranked) for civic engagement
- Above average for income and wealth, environmental quality, health status, housing, jobs and earnings, education and skills, subjective wellbeing, and social connections
- Not performing well in having a work-life balance, we are in the bottom third for working very long hours

