



Factsheet 1

What is Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) according to previous research?

This work was guided by a framework developed by Gee et al. (2014). SEWB can be seen as:

- **Holistic:** all domains are important.
- **Inter-connected:** all domains influence each other.
- **Encompassing:** the social and emotional wellbeing of the individual, family, kin, and community are fluid and inter-related.
- **Contextual:** social, political, historical and cultural determinants affect a person's connection to each domain.

This framework is one approach to conceptualising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SEWB and may not be suitable for all stages of life or experiences.

Please see the Research Report for further information.

Summarised from:

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Analysts behind this fact sheet: Harrap, B., Wycisk, O., Dinku, Y., Howard-Wagner, D., Cooms, V., Guthrie, J., Edwards, B., Somboonsin, P. & Yap, M.

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Footprints in Time: The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) has been following two cohorts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from across Australia since 2008. This fact sheet draws on the responses of 1,218 Study Youth who participated in both Waves 11 and 12.



Our adaptation of Gee et al.'s (2014) framework to LSIC responses. Note: "r" is the correlation between the domain and social and emotional wellbeing. Higher values indicate statistically higher relationships. This does not necessarily reflect all lived experiences.

Key Findings

Improving SEWB means strengthening connections to domains

Our preliminary measure suggests that SEWB is positively associated with a connection to all domains. For LSIC youth, Connection to Family and Connection to Culture appear particularly associated to SEWB. Policy design must think holistically, age appropriately, and in partnership, to support a child's connection to all domains and improve SEWB.

LSIC questions can measure Gee et al.'s (2014) concept of SEWB

Current government measures of SEWB for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are narrow (e.g. Closing the Gap Target 14).

We show that it is possible to apply the Gee et al. (2014) framework to a wave of LSIC data and measure holistic SEWB for Study Youth.

To improve the measurement of SEWB, questions or survey instruments would need to be designed specifically to measure SEWB domains.



How We Drew on LSIC Study Youth/Primary Carer Voices to Measure Gee et al.'s (2014) Concept of SEWB

What did we do?

Gee et al.'s (2014) domains of SEWB can't be measured directly, so we used questions from LSIC to see how each domain might be experienced by a Study Youth. To do this, we took three steps:

- 1. Beginning with Gee et al.'s (2014) model of SEWB, we reviewed the available questions in LSIC to find those which might fit into each domain.**
- 2. Using factor analysis to identify themes within each domain of SEWB that were common among the questions, we sought to understand how strongly these themes were related.**
- 3. Then, using structural equation modelling, we sought to understand how each of the domains of SEWB were inter-connected and related to holistic SEWB.**

Notes:

"r" is the 'correlation' (i.e. relationship) between the broad LSIC themes we created and the domain they reflect. Values closer to '0' mean there is less of a relationship ('correlation') between the theme and domain. Values closer to '1' mean there is more of a relationship. These relationships are statistical, and do not necessarily represent lived experiences.

Connection to Mind and Emotions were measured in Wave 12 (2019). All other domains were measured in Wave 11 (2018). Please see the Research Report for more details. Connection to Country, Connection to Culture and Connection to Spirituality and Ancestors have been included in one domain. It was not possible to create a score for holistic SEWB, due to the unavailability of appropriate questions.

Domain of Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Broad theme of LSIC questions used to measure each SEWB domain

Strength of connection between LSIC theme and SEWB domain

