



TE TAI ŌHANGA
THE TREASURY

(Treasury, 2021a)
[Introduction]

The Living Standards Framework 2021

28 October 2021

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Disclaimer

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Executive summary

Purpose and background

This paper describes the 2021 version of the Living Standards Framework (LSF). The new framework is an evolution of the 2018 version, which itself built on earlier versions of the LSF. The 2021 LSF is intended to better reflect children's wellbeing and culture, including being more compatible with wellbeing as understood in te ao Māori and by Pacific Peoples. This paper also seeks feedback on the Treasury's initial thinking on additional indicators to measure the new parts of the LSF.

We continue to evolve the LSF because the Treasury is committed to offering the best economic advice it can. This requires us to continually develop and strengthen our key analytical and policy frameworks, such as the LSF. The areas in which we have developed the framework reflect feedback from stakeholders, particularly from when we released the LSF Dashboard in 2018.

Our approach

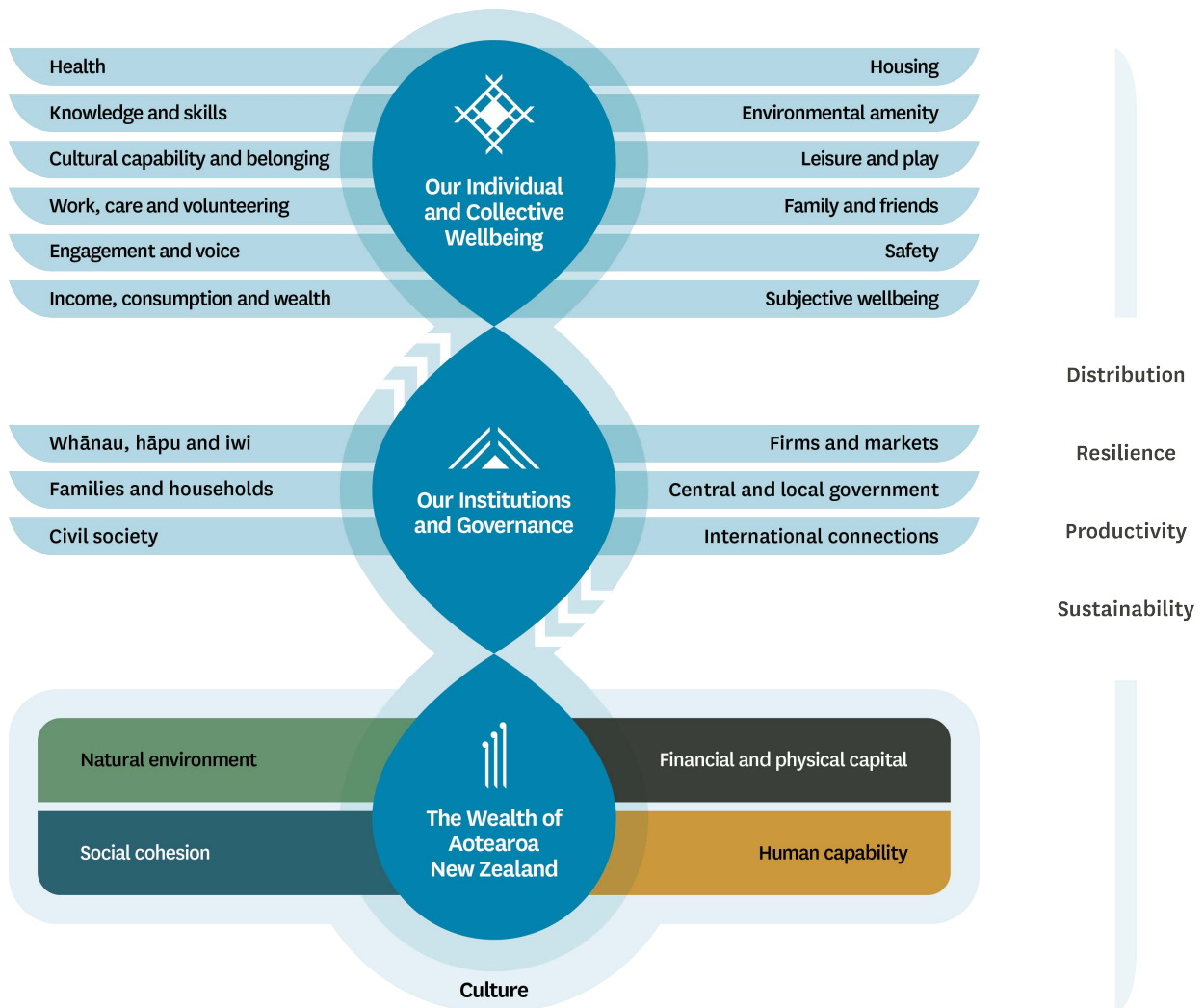
We have taken an integrated approach to the challenge to better reflect children's wellbeing and culture, so many of the changes to the LSF cut across the development areas. We have also not attempted to comprehensively incorporate everything that is important for children, or te ao Māori and Pacific perspectives. We have aimed to incorporate some of the most important concepts at a high level, but intend to use the LSF alongside in-depth frameworks such as:

- ▶ He Ara Waiora for a Māori perspective on wellbeing
- ▶ Lalanga Fou for a Pacific perspective on wellbeing, and
- ▶ the Children's Commissioner's Wellbeing Wheel for a perspective on children's wellbeing.

This approach maintains the integrity of these complementary perspectives while also minimising the complexity of the LSF.

Overview of the 2021 LSF

The new version of the LSF is introduced in the following diagram.



The new LSF has three levels and a series of analytical prompts that apply to each one. While this introductory diagram is quite simple, there is substantial depth beneath each level of the framework. For casual users of the LSF this simple diagram will be sufficient, but more advanced users will need to explore the nuances within and between each element of the framework.

Level 1: Our Individual and Collective Wellbeing

This level of the framework captures those resources and aspects of our lives that have been identified by research or public engagement as being important for our wellbeing as individuals, families, whānau and communities.

In the previous version of the LSF, wellbeing was implicitly conceived as being about individual people. This new version introduces the concept of collective wellbeing to reflect the importance of families, whānau and community to the wellbeing of Māori, Pacific Peoples, and many other New Zealanders.