



National Strategy for Financial Capability

Shared Measurement Tool, April 2024

Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the shared wellbeing tool for financial wellbeing. We support the kaupapa to create a shared language around financial capability and resiliency, and to provide consistent measurement to these issues. We believe that there is a strong need for this, and that the adoption of the tool will support long-term financial wellbeing for our communities.

Our main points are:

Item One – Shared language means shared understanding

We support the unification and streamlining of financial language into one metric that can be applied widely.

Item Two – The tool engages with all areas of the lifespan

The tool is appropriate for individuals across the lifespan in preparation for retirement.

Item Three – The use of Plain Language is helpful and useful

Ensuring that the tool is accessible will assist in the National Strategy's "Demystify Money" goal.

Item Four – No consideration for income

None of the questions are related to the security or diversity of the household's income

Taunakitanga | Recommendations

We raise the following points and recommendations for consideration:

Item One – Shared language means shared understanding

The current system of financial capability assessment relies heavily on in-house metrics. While these are largely thoughtfully constructed and will overlap with other organisations, there is no standard system. Creating this standardised format for assessing programmes will help in a number of ways. Clients with long-term need for support will be able to have longitudinal data relating to their score available and understandable to successive organisations should they need it. Clients will become familiar with the metrics, prompting them to continue thinking about these key areas. Programmes will be able to track the efficacy of their interventions in a consistent way, and use this in their reporting to funders.

Item Two – The tool engages with all areas of the lifespan

While we hope to establish financial capacity as early as possible, the tool is age agnostic. Improving capacity and understanding at any point up to retirement, and even after retirement, is important. By making the tool applicable to a wide variety of circumstances across the lifespan, this can ensure maximum engagement and uptake.

Item Three – The use of Plain Language is helpful and useful

If individuals cannot access the tool due to higher level language, then it cannot be useful to groups of people who may need it the most. By ensuring that it is presented in plain language, it avoids this issue.

Item Four – No consideration for income

When considering financial capability, their income is core to their capacity to save and invest for their future. While certain questions in the tool measure the sufficiency of income – households with insufficient income are unlikely to be able to save or invest – there is no component that measures the security or diversity of income. We also question the lack of consideration for those whose income has been or will be impacted by facets such as caring obligations.

Ko wai tātou | Who we are

NZCCSS has six foundation members; the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support and the Methodist and Salvation Army Churches.

Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 230 organisations providing a range of social support services across Aotearoa. We believe in working to achieve a just and compassionate society for all, through our commitment to our faith and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Further details on NZCCSS can be found on our website www.nzccss.org.nz.

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