

# Index of Wellbeing for Older Australians

AAG-ACS Regional Conference, Dubbo, April 2016

Sarah Fogg

# About The Benevolent Society

## **What we do**

- Support families
- Deliver home care and support services
- Community development
- Advocacy

## **Who we help**

- Children
- Families
- Older people
- People with disability



## The research team

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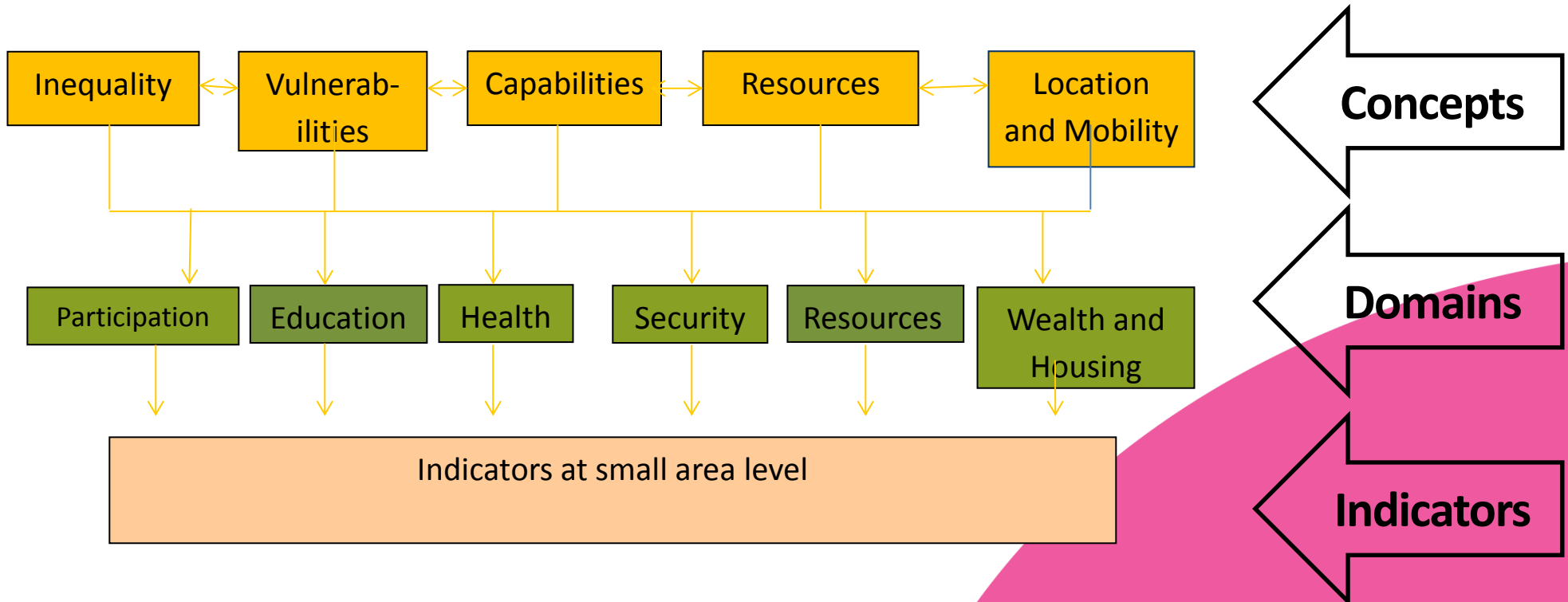
Department of Social Services and Department of Health

# Starting point

## Wellbeing Framework

- Multi-dimensional
- Both positive and negative aspects of life
  - Capabilities and vulnerabilities
- People aged 65 and older

# Framework



## Data sources

- ABS 2011 Census
- spatial microsimulation modelling by NATSEM
- small area estimate modelled by ABS
- administrative data (DSS)
- Indicators collected, or derived, for Statistical Area 2 (SA2)
  - suburbs in capital cities,
  - larger areas in regional and remote Australia.
  - excluded any SA2 Areas with <30 people aged 65 and above

# What was important in the final index?

- Participation domain
  - Employment rate (0.40)
  - No car (-0.37)
  - No internet (-0.36)
  - Couldn't speak English well or not at all (-0.52)
  - Volunteer (0.54)
- Education domain
  - Completed Year 10 (0.58)
  - Completed Year 12 (0.57)
  - With a qualification (0.58)



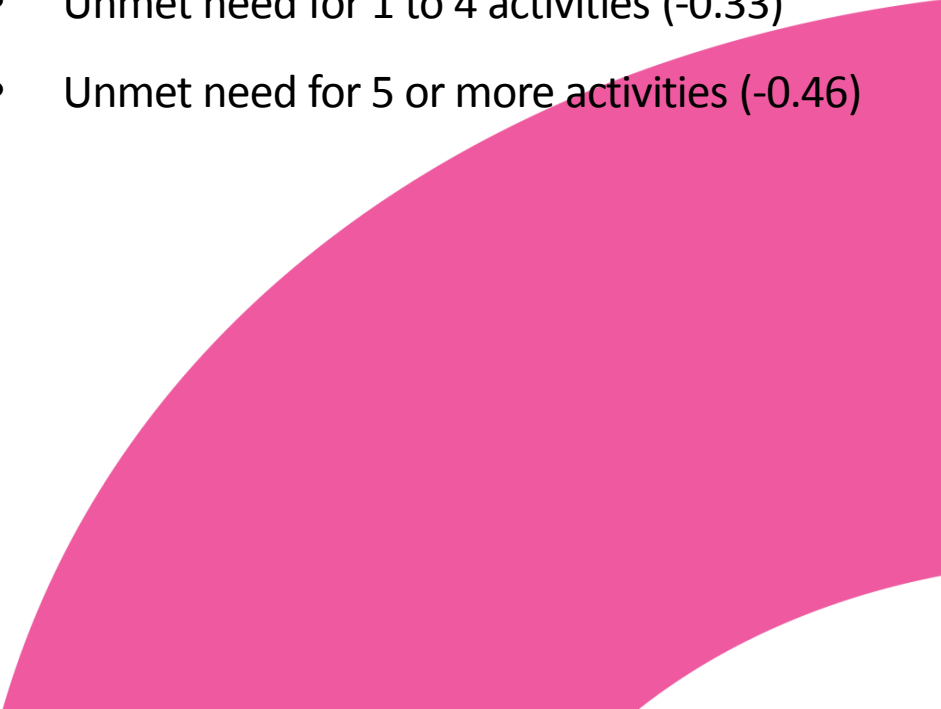
- Resources domain

- Poverty rate (-0.54)
- Receiving age pension (-0.53)
- No superannuation (-0.49)
- Paying rent and in bottom quintile of income distribution (-0.44)

- Housing domain

- In housing stress (-0.68)
- Receiving rent assistance (-0.57)
- Still paying mortgage (-0.32)
- In public housing (-0.33)

- Functional ability domain

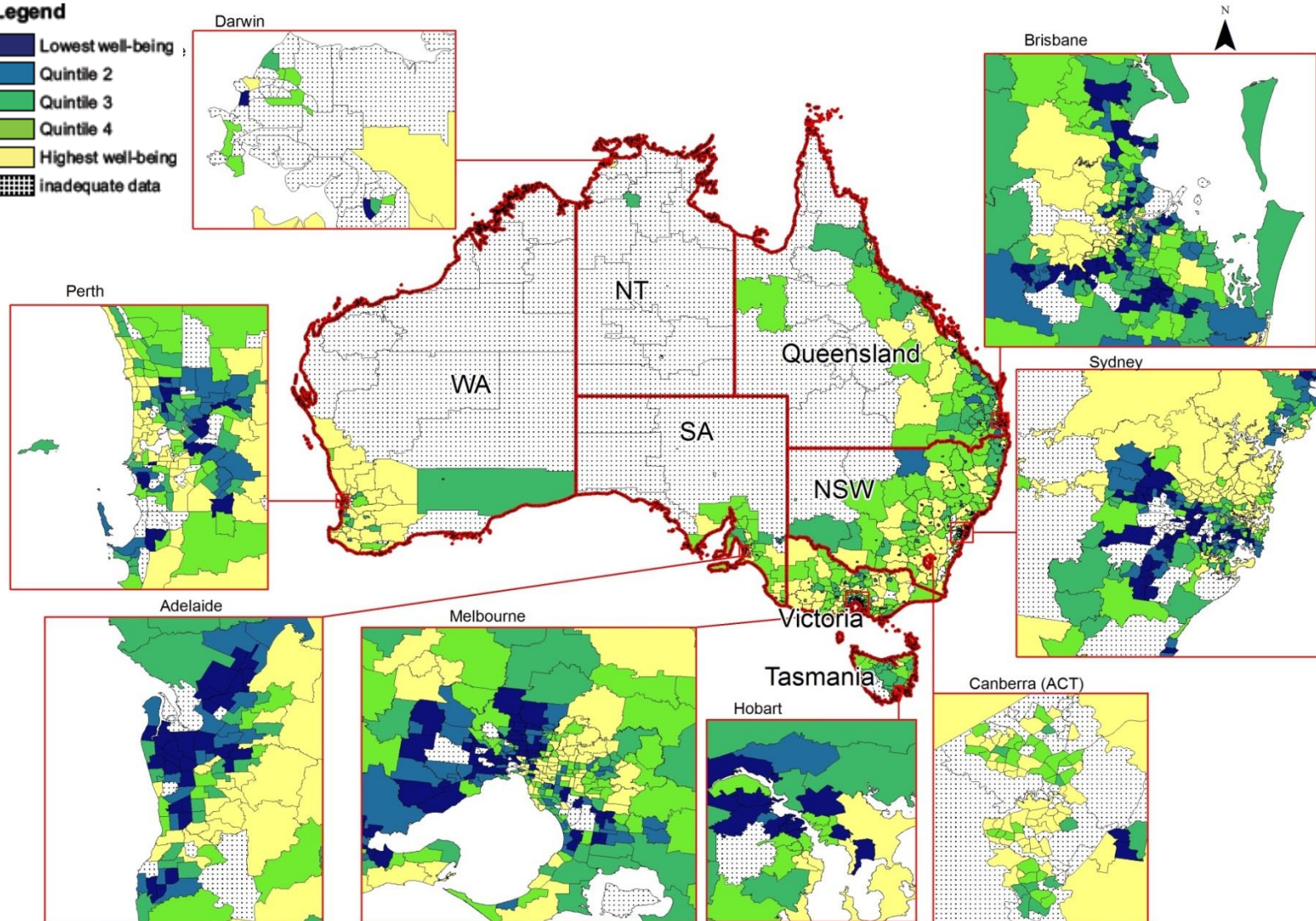
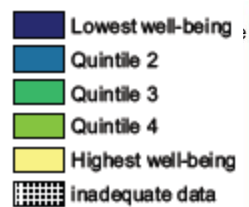
- Need for assistance (Census) (-0.41)
  - Need assistance for 1 – 4 activities (-0.51)
  - Need assistance for 5 or more activities (-0.50)
  - Unmet need for 1 to 4 activities (-0.33)
  - Unmet need for 5 or more activities (-0.46)
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# Maps

[http://web.natsem.canberra.edu.au/maps/AUS\\_OSE/atlas.html](http://web.natsem.canberra.edu.au/maps/AUS_OSE/atlas.html)

- Population weighted quintiles
  - Equal number of older people in each quintile
- Overall summary index
- Domain indexes
- SEIFA

**Legend**

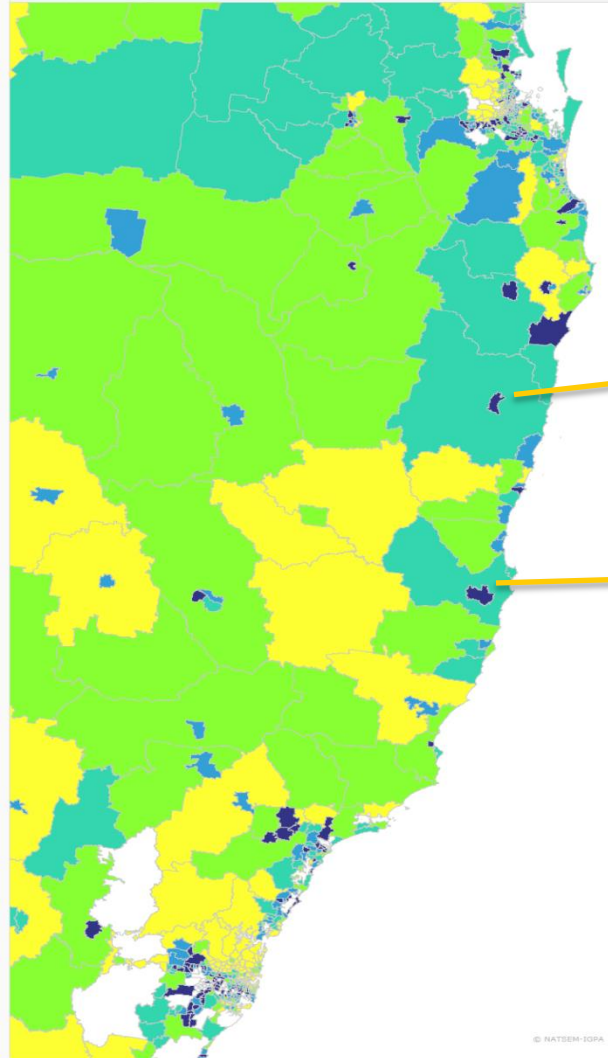


## Index of Wellbeing for Older Australians

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Data Filter Report

Wellbeing for Older Australians >> Overall



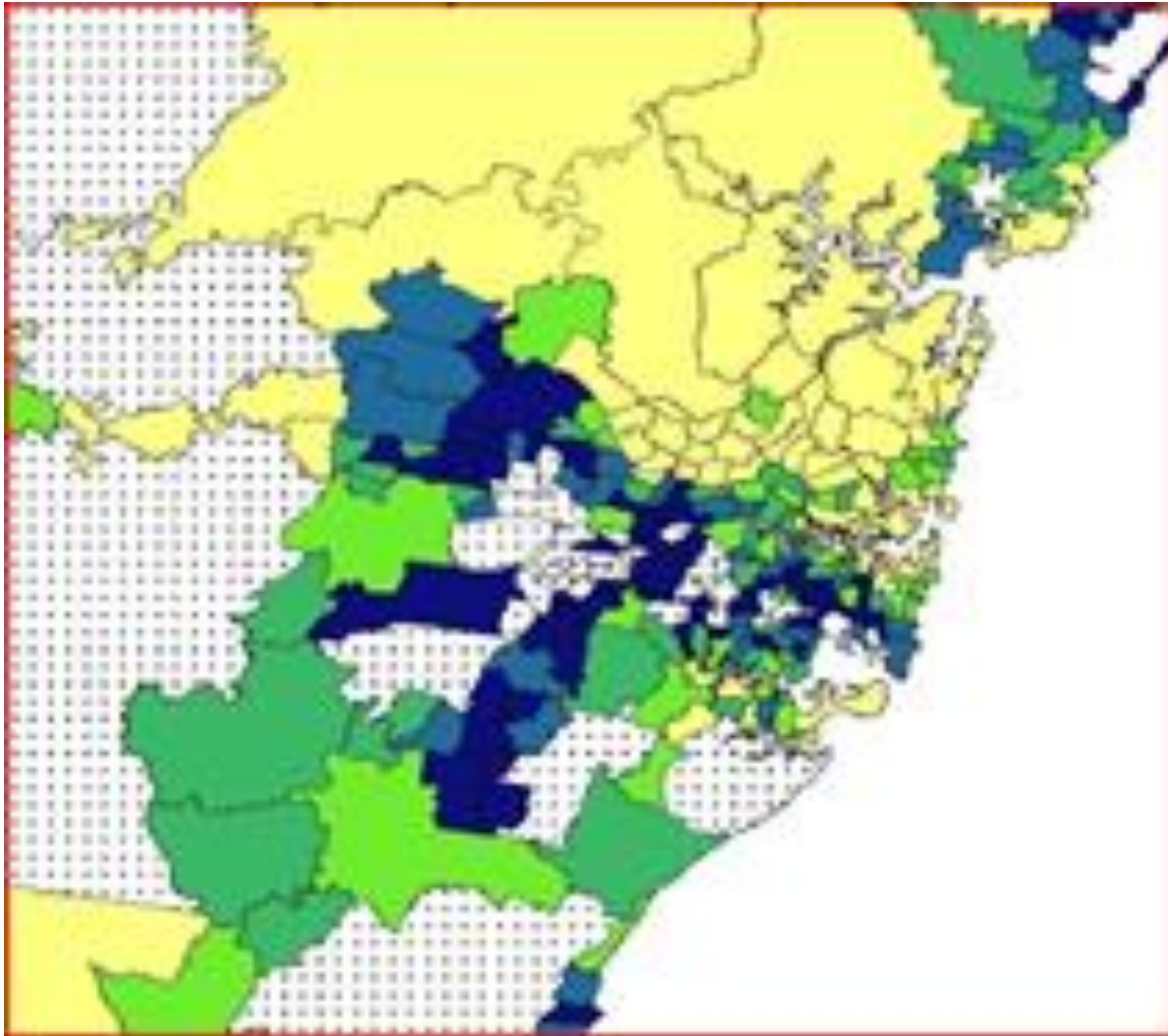
Name	Indicator
Abbotsford	Quintile 2
Aberfoyle Park	Quintile 4
ACT - East	No Data
ACT - South West	No Data
Acton	No Data
Acton - Upper Burnie	Quintile 1(lowest well-being)
Adamstown - Kotara	Quintile 4
Adelaide	Quintile 4
Adelaide Airport	No Data
Adelaide Hills	Quintile 5(highest well-being)
Agnes Water - Miriam Vale	Quintile 3
Ainslie	Quintile 4
Airlie - Whitsundays	Quintile 5(highest well-being)
Airport West	Quintile 3
Aitkenvale	Quintile 2
Alawa	No Data
Albany	Quintile 3
Albany Creek	Quintile 4
Albany Region	Quintile 5(highest well-being)
Albert Park	Quintile 5(highest well-being)
Albion Park - Macquarie Pass	Quintile 1(lowest well-being)
Albion Park Rail	Quintile 1(lowest well-being)
Albury - East	Quintile 3
Albury - North	Quintile 2
Albury - South	Quintile 2
Albury Region	Quintile 5(highest well-being)
Alderley	Quintile 4
Aldgate - Stirling	Quintile 5(highest well-being)
Aldinga	Quintile 2
Alexander Heights - Koondoola	Quintile 2
Alexandra	Quintile 4
Alexandra Hills	Quintile 2
Alfredton	Quintile 3

SA2\_2011\_WGS84wn.shp  
☐ No Data  
☒ Quintile 1(lowest well-being)  
☐ Quintile 2  
☐ Quintile 3  
☐ Quintile 4  
☐ Quintile 5(highest well-being)  
☐ server.arcgisonline.com

Grafton

Kempsey







# Areas with the highest and lowest wellbeing in NSW

Lowest wellbeing	Highest wellbeing
Cabramatta - Lansvale	North Sydney - Lavender Bay
Liverpool - Warwick Farm	Terrey Hills - Duffys Forest
Fairfield - East	Wahroonga - Warrawee
Guildford - South Granville	St Ives
Lakemba - Wiley Park	Pymble

## Comparison with the SEIFA index

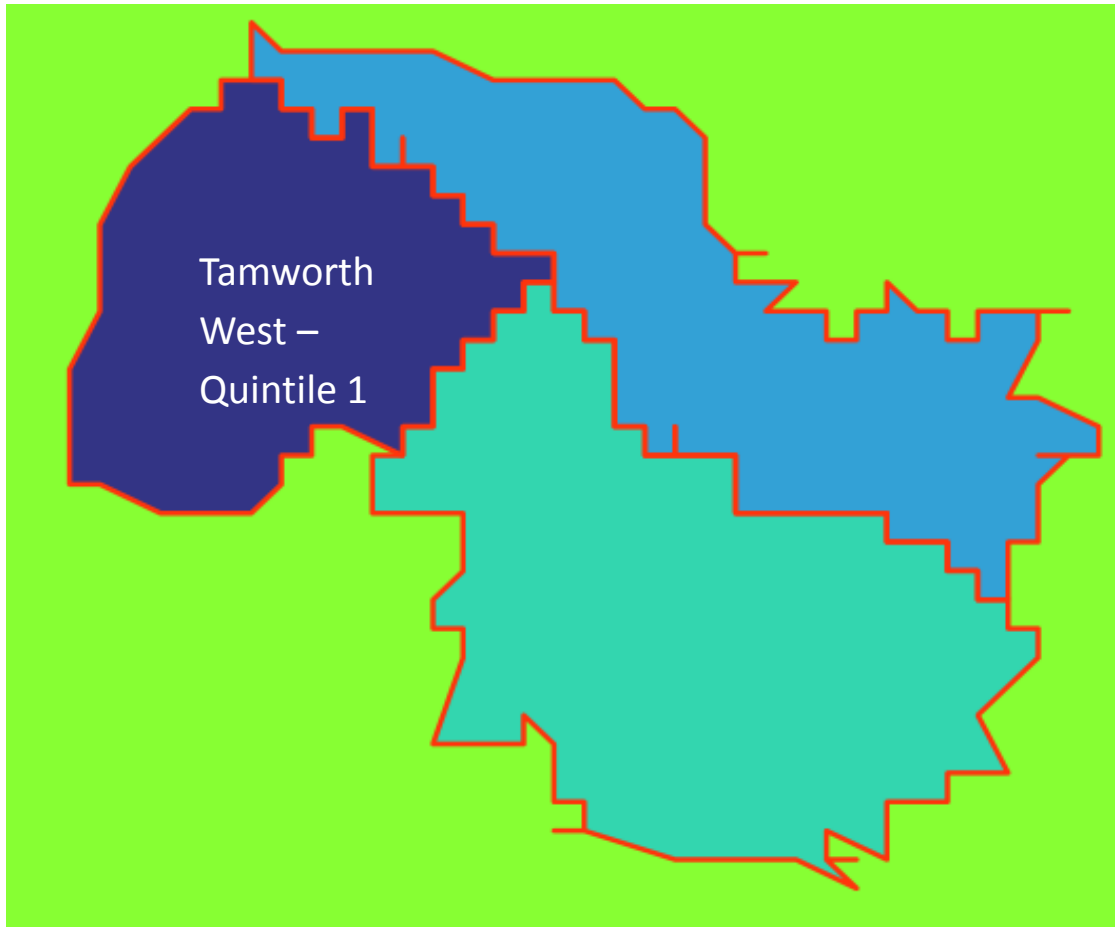
- Geographical patterns of wellbeing/ disadvantage shown by the IWOA index and SEIFA index are similar
  - Three quarters of older people live in an area in the same quintile or one quintile above or below.
  - But around 1 in 4 older people live in an area that is in a very different quintile in the two indexes.
- 

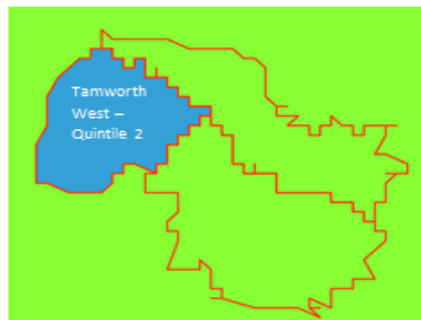
## Analyse the online maps to

- Identify areas of overall low wellbeing
  - Look at the domain indexes to explore the reasons underlying low wellbeing scores in a particular area
  - Compare with the SEIFA
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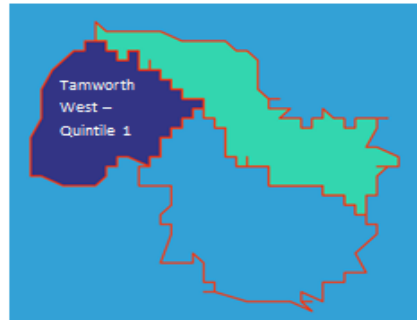


## An example

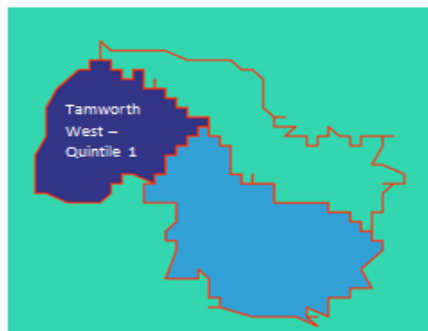




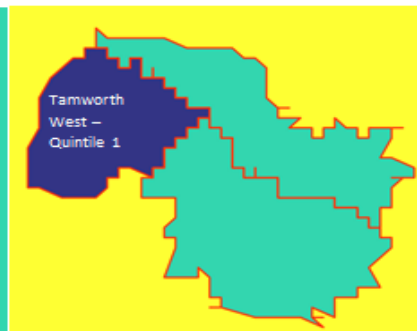
Participation



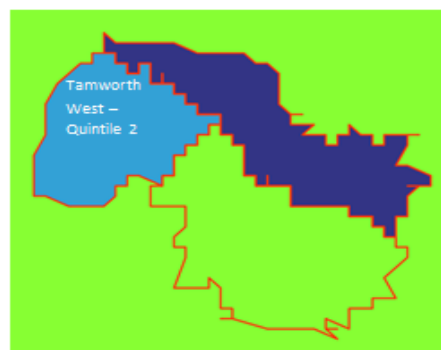
Education



Resources



Housing



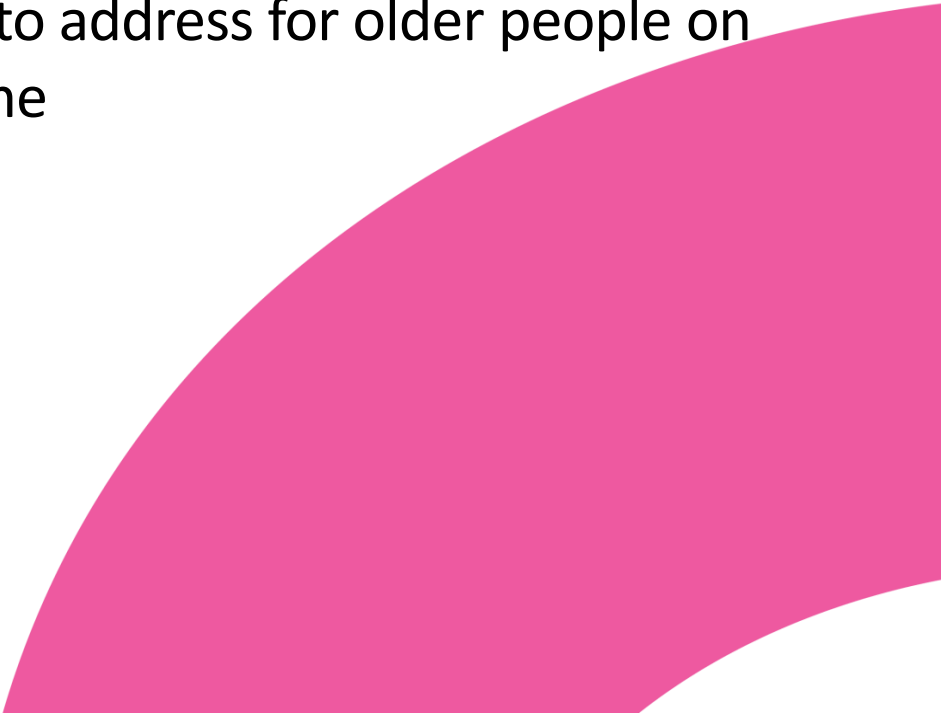
Functional ability



# Using the index for program and service planning

- Identify areas of low wellbeing and contributing factors
- Identify areas where additional resources may be needed and/or policies reviewed
- Compare the effectiveness of policies and programs across different areas
- Enable policy-makers, planners and service providers to
  - more effectively target service provision to low wellbeing areas
  - address any weaknesses in the provision of core universal services to older people
  - tailor services to local older people's circumstances
- Potentially, monitor the wellbeing of the older population within local areas over time

## Policy implications

- HOUSING .....
  - Importance of housing to older people's wellbeing
  - Need for comprehensive strategies to address for older people on low incomes who do not own a home
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# Limitations

- Constrained by availability of data at small areas level, especially in aspects of
  - Health
  - Safety and Security
- Some areas not able to be scored reliably
- Does not differentiate between sub-groups within the older population on the basis of gender, indigenous status or cultural and linguistic background.
- Indexes are area based, represent average for that area
  - There can be high wellbeing older people living in a low wellbeing area

# Contact

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