



Conscious and Unconscious Barriers to Success.

The Valuing Children Initiative

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www.valuingchildreninitiative.com.au



The Valuing Children Initiative (VCI)

The VCI is an ambitious project that seeks to inspire Australian's to value all children, understand that a child's wellbeing is the shared responsibility of the entire community and ensure children are at the forefront of our considerations.



Children are not faring as well as they should be.....

- In 2014 – 2015, over 42,000 children were the subject of substantiated reports of neglect, emotional, physical and sexual abuse.
- Suicide is the biggest killer of young Australians, and approximately one in ten teenagers report that they have engaged in self-harming behaviour.
- One in five are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains on commencing school.
- One in four are obese or overweight, and as a result are part of a generation that is predicted to have a shorter life expectancy than their parent's generation because of the chronic diseases that result.



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Getting on the Balcony

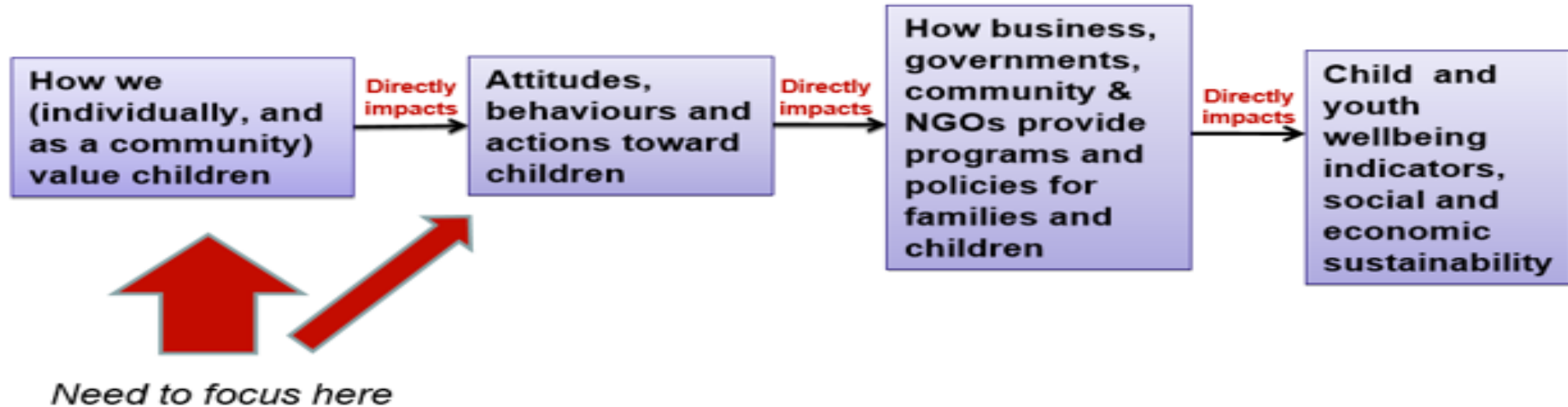




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Societal attitudes drive change.

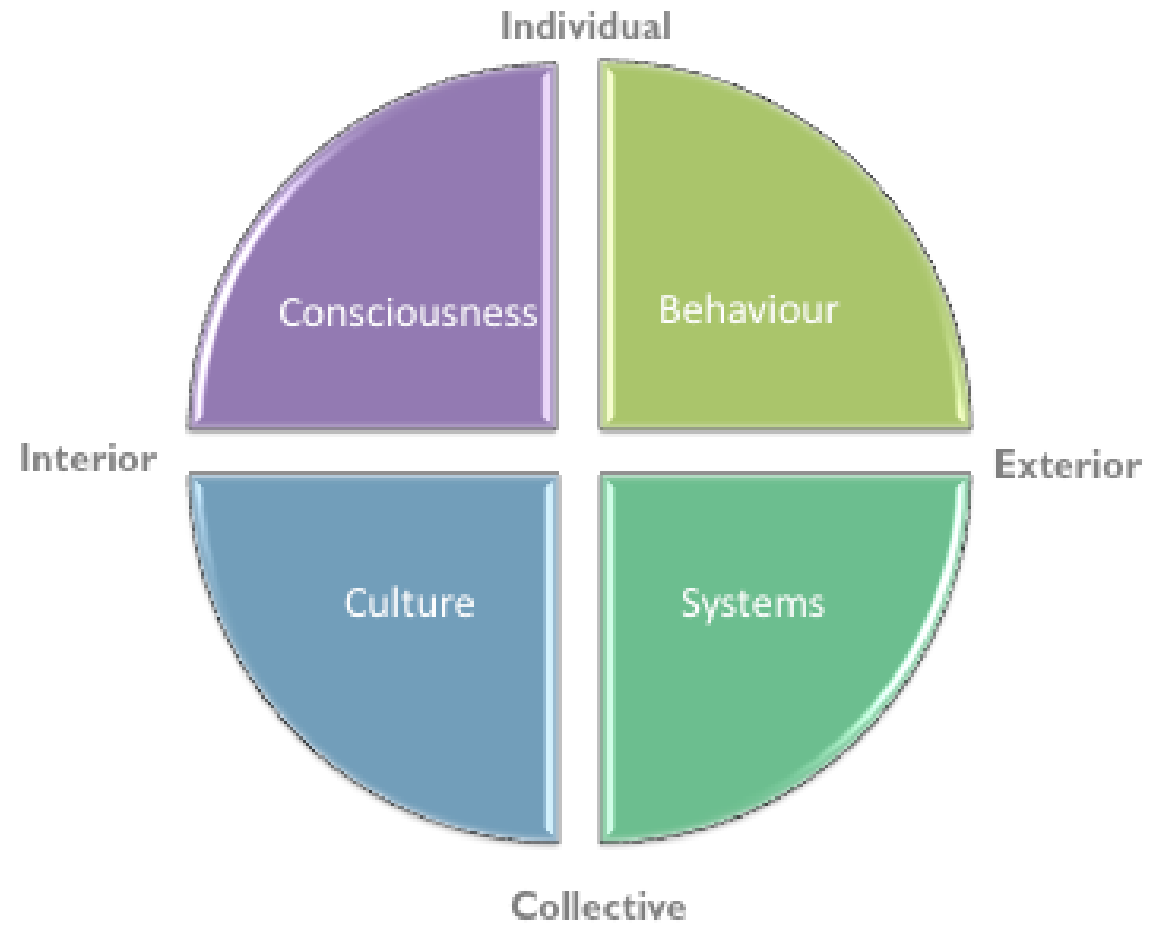
Antecedents of complex problems affecting children and young people are common: they begin with our (societal) values





**Every generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it.”
George Orwell**

Wilber's Integral Model





Australians Attitudes to Children -

A snapshot.



80% are concerned about the health and happiness of future generations.

59% believe that Australian society is committed to protecting and prioritising the needs of children.

70% agreed that children 'belong' to their parents until they reach the age of 18 years.

Australians were asked to rate 10 issues in order of importance. "Looking after the interests of children" ranked only 9th.

The top ten issues of most importance were;

1. The quality of the health system.
2. A quality education system.
3. Management of the economy.
4. Jobs and protection of local industry.
5. A fair taxation system.
6. Looking after the interests of older Australians.
7. Housing affordability.
8. Security and the war on terrorism.
9. Looking after the interests of children.
10. Addressing climate change

63% believe that even today, a child's word is less likely to be believed than that of an adult.

The top 5 words used to describe children were:

1. Spoilt
2. Fortunate
3. Lazy
4. Selfish
5. Vulnerable

Only 48% believe that children in Australia all have fair and equal opportunity to flourish, and to maximise on their potential.



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“No fundamental change occurs merely because government acts. It’s because civil society, the conscience of a country, begins to rise up – demand – demand – demand change.”

Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States.



Measuring Success reflects both the desire of those committed to addressing pressing social problems to better understand what works, and ensure they are in fact making a tangible difference, as well as the requirement to satisfy funders that their support and investment is having an impact.



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3xP1p8sVY>