

The Emerging Social Cohesion Roadmap

Five priorities, five proposed actions

The Think Social Cohesion National Summit demonstrated that Australia does not lack ideas. It lacks a sufficiently shared and accountable framework for action. It is deliberately not final: every element of this framework is open to amendment through this consultation.

1

Rights and responsibility

What must the system guarantee?

SUMMIT FINDING

Across the discussions, participants consistently emphasised the importance of rights, obligations and institutional accountability.

PROPOSED ACTION

Establish a rights and institutional responsibility framework for social cohesion

2

Reach

Who are we failing to reach?

SUMMIT FINDING

Importantly, a lack of participation should not be mistaken for a lack of willingness to engage.

PROPOSED ACTION

Invest in the local infrastructure of reach

3

Participation

How do people contribute?

SUMMIT FINDING

Recognition of overseas skills and qualifications was the strongest evidenced proposition of the summit, raised across five sessions without a recorded contradiction.

PROPOSED ACTION

Unlock skills and remove barriers to participation

4

Accountability

Who owns the outcome?

SUMMIT FINDING

As one participant observed, listening is not complete until people can see what changed because they spoke.

PROPOSED ACTION

Apply the accountability architecture to every Roadmap commitment

5

Narrative

What story enables all of this?

SUMMIT FINDING

Australia needs a national story capable of holding truth-telling, multiculturalism, shared belonging, and legitimate disagreement.

PROPOSED ACTION

Develop and promote an ethical storytelling framework, and a structural response to the information environment

WHERE THIS ROADMAP BEGINS

Any Australian framework for social cohesion must begin with recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of this continent and with an honest account of colonisation, dispossession and continuing sovereignty. This proposal will be further developed through respectful engagement with First Nations leaders and organisations before the Roadmap is finalised.

Participants proposed that every Roadmap commitment should carry an accountability architecture:

one named accountable leader

one lived-experience partner

the resources required

a baseline

a six-month measure

a transparent method for reporting progress