



# Advances in the measurement and development of personal wellbeing:

## **Managerial & Executive Wellbeing Survey**

Audrey McGibbon



# Summary of Findings

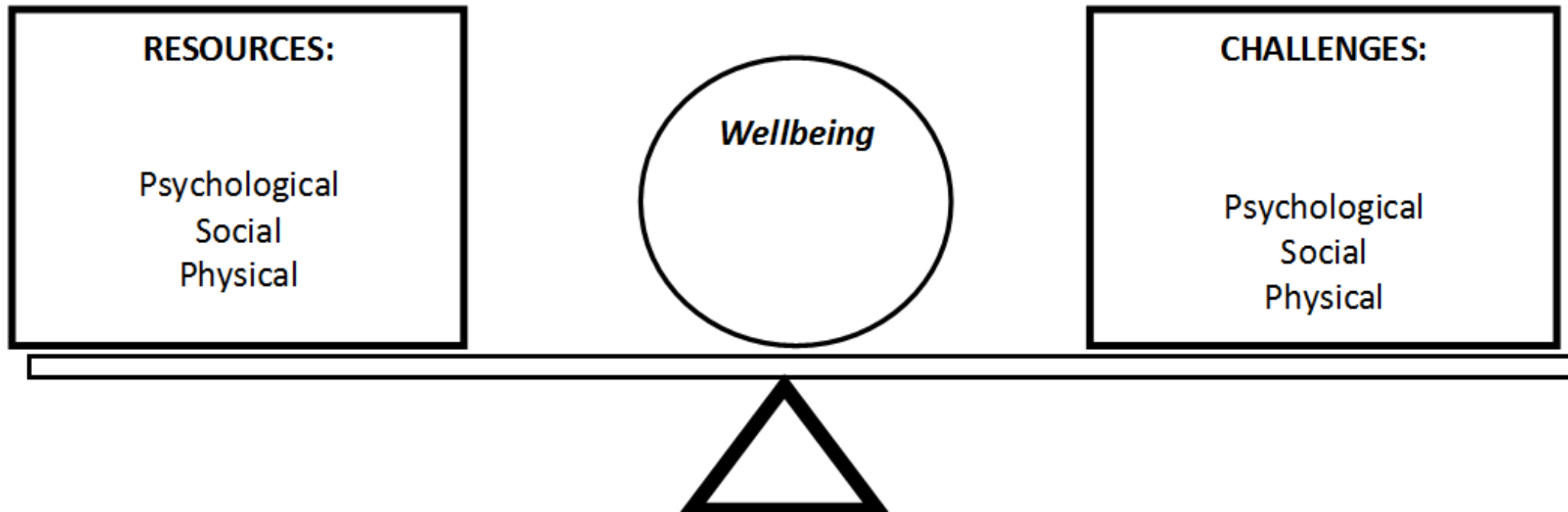
- ❖ A new way of conceptualizing and measuring Subjective Well-Being (SWB) in an organisational context - an integrated framework of wellbeing / 125 items across 6 wellbeing domains reflective of key research constructs
- ❖ Research from a sample of N=245 managers
- ❖ Provide a range of psychometric perspectives regarding the factors mostly highly correlated with SWB
- ❖ Offering an advance on existing workplace wellbeing measures - comprehensive conceptualisation - integrated model - focus on the whole person and application of robust psychological principles to development and use
- ❖ Findings build a foundation for future research, may assist in the development of more effective wellbeing policy by human resources specialists, and help to promote person-centred wellbeing interventions for senior executives

# Terms of Reference

- ❖ Wellbeing as a topic for scientific understanding has suffered from a “*confusing and contradictory research base*” (Pollard & Lee, 2003, p. 2). Nevertheless, there seems to be emerging consensus about some of its key elements and these are summarised briefly below
- ❖ **Wellbeing is a largely subjective phenomenon** – for a white-collar socio-economically advantaged population, wellbeing is a feeling and a state of being rather than an objective measurement or statement of fact. Subjective Well Being (‘SWB’) is a major line of enquiry and is heavily influenced, though not synonymous with, personality. (Diener & Diener, 1995; Diener & Suh, 2000; Shah & Marks, 2004; Diener, 2013)
- ❖ **Wellbeing is multi-dimensional** – there are different aspects or criteria that we use to deciding how ‘well’ we feel. (La Placa, McNaught & Knight, 2013)
- ❖ **Wellbeing pathways** – stem from two broadly opposing philosophical perspectives. The first of these ‘Hedonia’ is concerned with maximising pleasure and positive emotional affect. The second pathway to wellbeing, ‘Eudaimonia’, reflects the Aristotelian values of living an authentic life of virtue, self-actualization and positive functioning. Despite the historical contention, the current view is that both these perspectives are inherently valid and that an integrated approach encompassing both aspects will optimise the probability of a flourishing state. (Henderson & Knight, 2012)
- ❖ **Wellbeing generally occurs within a ‘set range’** – each of us has our normal homeostatic defensive range (Cummins, 2010; Ryan & Deci, 2001). The aim is to lead our lives in a way that is likely to push us to the top end of whatever our set range is, and to ensure we don’t dip underneath the bottom end of what constitutes our ‘normal’
- ❖ **Wellbeing is a dynamic rather than static or a particularly stable trait** – it fluctuates like a see-saw depending on the events, challenges and experiences we encounter in our lives. When individuals have the psychological, social and physical resources they need to meet a particular psychological, social and/or physical challenge, then wellbeing ensues, and vice versa. (Dodge, Daly, Huyton, & Sanders, 2012)

# SWB Definition

**Figure 1:** A New Definition of Wellbeing (Dodge, Daly, Huyton & Sanders, 2012)



*“A delicate balancing act between an individual’s social, emotional, psychological and physical assets (resources) and the particular social, emotional, psychological and physical liabilities (challenges) they are facing in life and at work.”*

# The Wellbeing Paradox

- ❖ There can be no doubt **wellbeing is key to achieving a range of positive business outcomes**. (Harter, Schmidt & Hayes, 2003) For example, Sims (2010) reports a 40% improvement in employee engagement and 50% improvement in creativity and innovation. Margeson & Nahrgang (2005), Van Dierendonck, Haynes, Borrill & Stride (2004) and Skakona, Nielsen, Borgb & Guzmanc (2010) have all found a significant relationship between enhanced wellbeing and enhanced leadership performance
- ❖ Building on what has become universally referred to as the **‘happy-productive-worker thesis’** which examines the link between positive affect, employee engagement and business outcomes generally, Hosie et al (2013) investigated the relationship specifically within a management population and found that **self-reports of affective wellbeing were positively associated with enhanced managerial and leadership performance** and diminished affective wellbeing associated with poorer managerial performance. (Hosie & Sevastos, 2003)
- ❖ Despite such data showing that investment in wellbeing makes good sense for individuals and organisations for both social and economic reasons, **the pressure is not abating and levels of wellbeing among those at the top of organisations is in decline** – the wellbeing of managers is under more threat than ever before. (Forster & Still, 2001) The incidences of personal sacrifice, burnout, emotional exhaustion, strain and pressure among those in management roles and those who have the largest responsibility and accountability in organisations are well documented trends and stress or burnout is increasingly common (Reinhold, 1997) and emotional exhaustion is prevalent in managers’ workplaces. (Lee & Ashforth, 1996)

# The Wellbeing Issue

- ❖ Wellbeing approaches tend to be generic, surface level or based on spot interventions with an overly medical emphasis, and which underplay the psychological factors of wellbeing
- ❖ **The Future of Wellness at Work 2016** report from the **Global Wellness Institute** reports:
  1. **The majority of formal wellness programs as they exist today, simply don't work.** Roughly one in ten report it has any positive impact on their health
  2. The problem is that the one-size-fits-all approach is viewed by employees as an empty gesture. If the goal is to improve employee wellness, then the opposite is being achieved, with **75% of workers cynical, believing workplace wellness programs to be self-serving and benefiting only the company**
- ❖ Without an accurate diagnosis of the specific wellbeing needs and circumstances of individual leaders, it becomes difficult to achieve enhanced wellbeing and consequent enhanced business outcomes



# Development of the Survey (1)

## Research Aims

- ❖ To develop a diagnostic tool for examining the subjective wellbeing (SWB) of people in professional, managerial or leadership roles
- ❖ To examine wellbeing in the workplace as well as wellbeing outside of work – a whole of person approach
- ❖ To educate leaders about what factors impact wellbeing, identify their unique wellbeing enhancers and detractors and motivate to operate at the top end of their set range more of the time
- ❖ To provide robust and evidence-based data for organisations and individual to target effective wellbeing actions

# Development of the Survey (2)



## Survey Design & Methodology

- ❖ **2013:** Literature Review of wellbeing & existing diagnostic tools
- ❖ **2014:** Develop alpha trial tool: 150 item generation & alpha model conceptualisation of the MEWS Framework
- ❖ Subject matter expert review
- ❖ Alpha trialling with 106 executives & statistical analysis of results; results formed basis of MSc. *“What factors significantly impact the subjective wellbeing of senior executives and managers in Australian based organisations”*
- ❖ **2015:** Refinement of beta version of tool and MEWS Framework to create a diagnostic with 120 specific questions across 10 wellbeing domains, with exactly 12 items per domain, plus 5 global measures of overall wellbeing. Software development and migration to Qualtrics platform technology, and creation of individual and team output reports
- ❖ **2016:** Quantitative (statistical analysis) & qualitative (feedback) review of first 245 respondents to the MEWS beta version, including an independent review by psychometricians Kendall Want Associates to verify design & methodology. Final version of MEWS created to comprise **121 domain items (11 items per domain, 11 domains), plus 5 global SWB items and final version of the MEWS Framework**



# Conceptualization & Model of Wellbeing (Beta Version 2015)



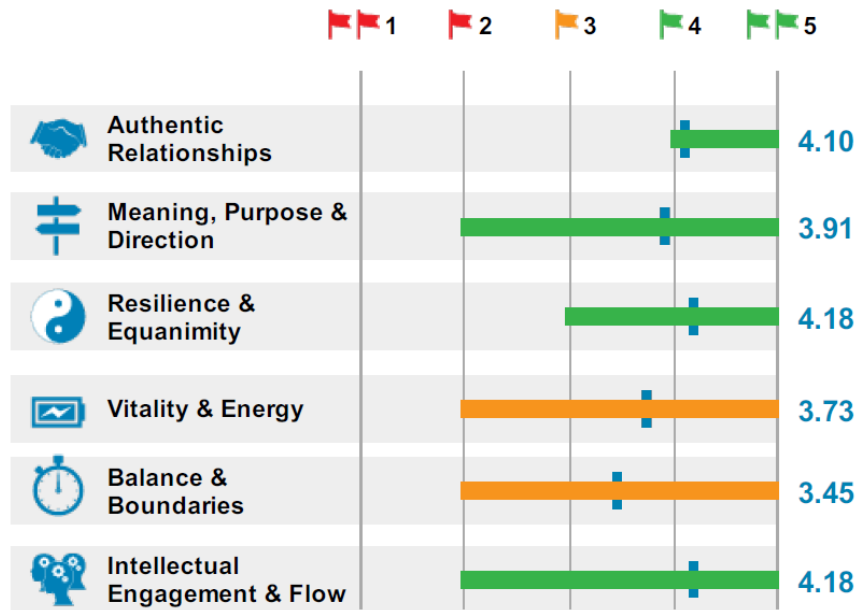
## Note!

- 1. Holistic coverage across work & personal life
- 2. Multi-dimensional
- 3. Integrated
- 4. 12 x items per scale

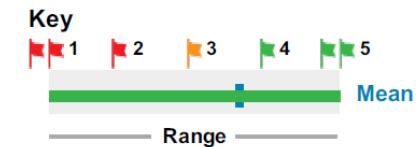
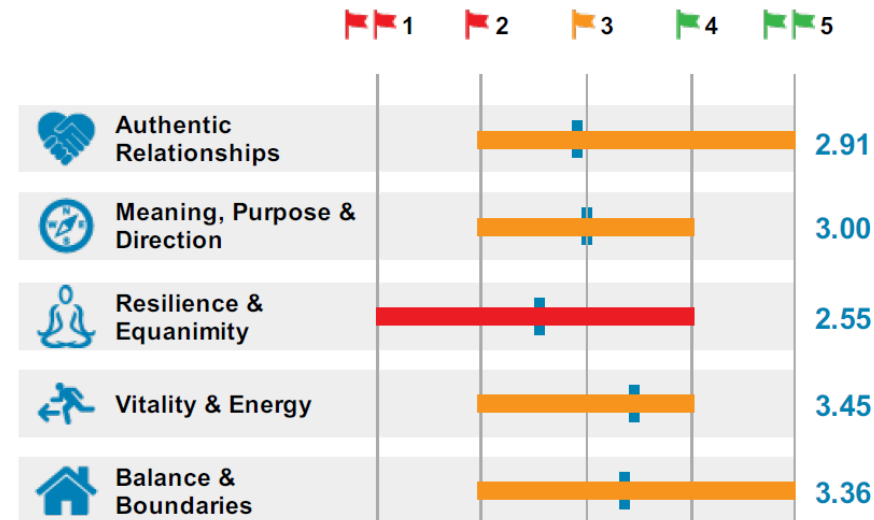
# Your Wellbeing Profile



## WORKING WELL



## LIVING WELL



**1** Indicates an aspect in your life that may be **significantly detracting** from your wellbeing  
Never (+), Always (-)

**2** Indicates an aspect in your life that may be **detracting** from your wellbeing  
Rarely (+), Usually/Often (-)

**3** **Sometimes** this aspect in your life is working for you and **sometimes** it isn't. Close review of these items is recommended to ascertain what you might change to enhance your wellbeing  
Sometimes (+/-)

**4** Indicates an aspect in your life that may be **enhancing** your wellbeing  
Usually/Often (+), Rarely (-)

**5** Indicates an aspect in your life that may be **significantly enhancing** your wellbeing  
Always (+), Never (-)

# Authentic Relationships



## WORKING WELL (4.10)

- I always feel part of a close, supportive team
- I usually/often feel respected at work and that other people take me seriously
- I usually/often have fun and share light-hearted moments with my colleagues
- I am usually/often treated by my colleagues in the way I want to be treated
- I rarely experience toxic relationships at work
- The politics at work rarely detract from my wellbeing
- At work, I usually/often go out of my way to show empathy for others' feelings and needs
- My work is usually/often acknowledged and appreciated
- I usually/often know where I stand with regard to my performance at work
- I rarely feel I miss out on building close relationships at work because of the demands of my personal life
- ? I trust my boss

### About Authentic Relationships

According to Aristotle, humans are 'social animals' and naturally seek the companionship of others as part of their wellbeing. Our lives depend on other humans and whether at work or elsewhere, the quality of our relationships will influence our overall sense of wellbeing, possibly more than any other factor. Bear in mind that what we give to others is just as important for our wellbeing as what we get from them.

For senior leaders, the quality of your relationships in the workplace is key to your success as an influencer and inspirer of action and outcomes. For most, this is only possible and sustainable when you are equally well supported by strong and authentic relationships in your personal life.

In worldwide studies, the top 5% of the happiest people have close supportive relationships - every single one of them! (Diener & Seligman 2002)



## LIVING WELL (2.91)

- I always have a fulfilling relationship with at least one significant person in my life
- I usually/often feel I am important to my family and friends
- I sometimes contribute to other people's success and happiness
- I sometimes spend time and do things with the people I like
- I sometimes give and receive love, warmth and affection
- My family and friends would say I'm sometimes distracted when I am with them
- I sometimes feel my personal relationships suffer as a consequence of my work
- My relationships with the key people in my life are rarely as I want them to be
- I usually/often feel lonely or isolated
- I can rarely openly raise concerns or problems with family and friends
- I usually/often experience damaging relationships in my personal life

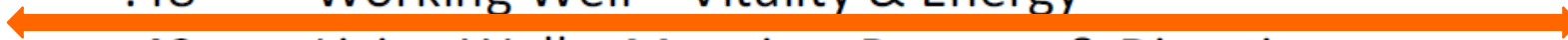
### You have Authentic Relationships when...

...you feel you belong (to a team, family, social group and/or community); you trust others and are able to talk honestly and openly with them, solving problems and making decisions collaboratively; you feel close and connected to others, supporting them and showing kindness; you are respected and loved by people who are important to you; and you invest your time and give your attention to those you are close to.

# Results: Factors Significantly Correlated with 'Overall Wellbeing at Work' Evaluations

- ❖ **Research Question:** How do the survey's wellbeing scales/domains relate to how respondents report overall wellbeing at work?
- ❖ **Method:** Product-Moment Correlations between the MEWS scales and self-evaluations of '**Overall Wellbeing at Work**'
- ❖ **Results:** As expected, all 6 Working Well scales correlate higher than do the 4 Living Well scales/domains

.65	Working Well – Meaning, Purpose & Direction
.59	Working Well – Challenge, Boundaries
.57	Working Well – Intellectual Engagement & Flow
.53	Working Well – Authentic Relationships
.53	Working Well – Resilience & Equanimity
.48	Working Well – Vitality & Energy
.43	Living Well – Meaning, Purpose & Direction
.42	Living Well – Vitality & Energy
.40	Living Well – Resilience & Equanimity
.39	Living Well – Authentic Relationships



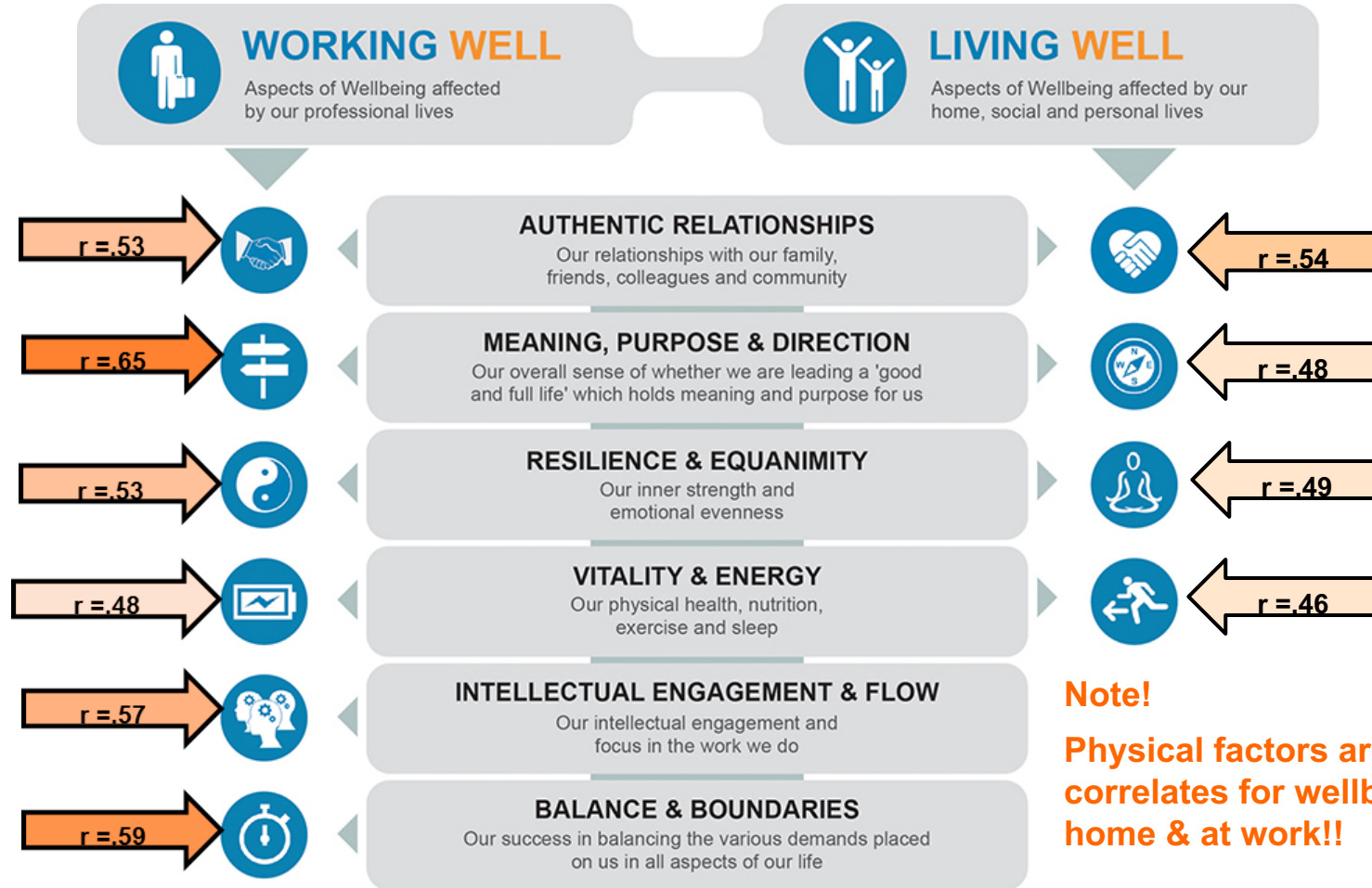
# Results: Factors Significantly Correlated with 'Overall Wellbeing in Life' Evaluations

- ❖ **Research Question:** How do the MEWS wellbeing scales/domains relate to how respondents feel about their overall wellbeing in life?
- ❖ **Method:** Product-Moment Correlations between MEWS scales and self-evaluations of '**Overall Wellbeing in Life**'
- ❖ **Results:** As expected, all 4 Living Well scales correlate higher than do the 6 Working Well scales/domains

.54	Living Well – Authentic Relationships
.49	Living Well – Resilience & Equanimity
.48	Living Well – Meaning, Purpose & Direction
.46	Living Well – Vitality & Energy
.42	Working Well – Vitality & Energy
.35	Working Well – Challenge, Boundaries
.31	Working Well – Meaning, Purpose & Direction
.28	Working Well – Resilience & Equanimity
.25	Working Well – Authentic Relationships
.19	Working Well – Intellectual Engagement & Flow



# Survey Domains / Scales of Most Relevance to Executives



**Note!**

**Physical factors are lowest  
correlates for wellbeing at  
home & at work!!**



# Top 10 individual items for executive wellbeing @ work

- ❖ **Research Question:** Which survey questions are most closely related to respondents ratings of their overall wellbeing at work?
- ❖ **Method:** Product-Moment Correlations between MEWS 'Working Well' items and self-evaluations of 'Overall Wellbeing at Work'

<i>My contribution at work is valuable and makes a difference (.48)</i>	}	<b>MEANING, PURPOSE &amp; DIRECTION</b>
<i>My personal values align well with those of the organisation I work in (.52)</i>		
<i>I feel able to shape my future at work (.53)</i>		
<i>I feel genuinely satisfied and interested in my work (.54)</i>	}	<b>INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT &amp; FLOW</b>
<i>My work enables me to develop a sense of mastery and expertise (.48)</i>		
<i>My job and work environment enable me to play to my strengths (.48)</i>		
<i>I am happy with the amount of time I spend working (.49)</i>		<b>BALANCE &amp; BOUNDARIES</b>
<i>Politics at work (don't) detract from my wellbeing (.52)</i>		<b>AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS</b>
<i>I (don't) feel depressed at work (.52)</i>		<b>RESILIENCE &amp; EQUANIMITY</b>
<i>I (don't) feel drained at work (.56)</i>		<b>VITALITY &amp; ENERGY</b>

# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables

- ❖ **Research Question:** How does income, company size, role seniority, gender and age relate to wellbeing?
- ❖ **Method:** Product-Moment Correlations between MEWS scales/domains and Biographical Variables
- ❖ **Results:** Seniority and Size of Organisation top; followed by Age; Gender & Income not significant

	Authentic Relationships		Meaning, Purpose & Direction		Resilience & Equanimity		Vitality & Energy		Intellectual Engagement & Flow		Balance & Boundaries	
	Working Well	Living Well	Working Well	Living Well	Working Well	Living Well	Working Well	Living Well	Working Well	Living Well	Working well	Living Well
Income / \$ Wealth	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	-	NS	-
Size of Organisation	-.23**	NS	-.19**	NS	NS	NS	-.20**	NS	-.13*	-	-.17*	-
Seniority / Level of Role	.14*	NS	.23**	.18**	.14*	NS	NS	NS	.16*	-	NS	-
Gender	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	-	NS	-
Age	NS	NS	NS	.22*	NS	NS	.15*	NS	NS	-	.17*	-

# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables – Discussion of Findings 1



## On Seniority / Level of Role:

- ❖ MEWS findings bear testament to the benefits of ‘climbing the corporate ladder’ – **those in upper echelons of management report generally higher wellbeing** than their counterparts in middle/lower management in the following ways:
  - ✓ More ‘Meaning, Purpose & Direction’ at work and in life more generally (WW.23\*\* / LW.18\*\*)
  - ✓ More ‘Intellectual Engagement & Flow’ (WW.16\*)
  - ✓ Better ‘Authentic Relationships’ (WW .14\* feelings of security, feelings of respect in their relationships)
  - ✓ More ‘Resilience & Equanimity’ (WW .14\* greater freedom from self-doubt and anxiety)

# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables – Discussion of Findings 2

## On Size of Organisation:

- ❖ Managers in smaller organisations report better relationships (AR  $-.23^{**}$ ), more meaning & purpose (MP&D  $-.19^{**}$ ), more engagement (IE&F  $-.13^{*}$ ), more energy (V&E  $-.20^{**}$ ) and better boundaries (B&B  $-.17^{*}$ ).
- ❖ Survey findings bear testament to the fact that ‘big is not always best’ and ‘small(er) is beautiful’!



# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables – Discussion of Findings 3

## On Income/Wealth: N/S

- ❖ Survey findings bear testament to the claim that for high earning tertiary qualified professionals – ‘**money doesn’t buy happiness**’.
- ❖ Beware the affluenza virus!



# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables – Discussion of Findings 4

## On Gender:

- ❖ Survey findings suggest **NO significant differences between males and females in any of the overall scales/domains of wellbeing** from either a workplace (Working Well) or outside of work (Living well) perspective.
- ❖ However, item level analysis indicates some nuanced gender implications.
- ❖ **Females** significantly more likely to:
  - ✓ Take care of themselves through recommended preventative health measures than their male counterparts (LW Vitality & Energy 0.35\*\*)
  - ✓ Go out of their way to show empathy for others' feelings and needs (WW Authentic Relationships 0.23\*\*)
  - ✓ Be attuned to where they carry stress and tension in their bodies (WW Vitality & Energy 0.23\*\*)
  - ✓ Use breathing techniques as a tool to slow down and stay calm (WW Vitality & Energy 0.21\*\*)
  - ✓ Make more time to develop their spiritual side (LW Meaning, Purpose & Direction 0.19\*\*)
- ❖ **Males** in our sample reported a significantly more positive wellbeing picture on only 2 counts:
  - ✓ Lower occurrence of self-doubt (WW Resilience & Equanimity, -.21\*\*) and
  - ✓ More likely to report sufficient energy to perform at their peak (LW Vitality & Energy -.19\*\*)





# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables – Discussion of Findings 5

## On Age:

### ❖ Survey findings suggest that with chronological maturity comes:

- ✓ Greater perspective and discipline to help us balance and manage our work-life boundaries (WW Balance & Boundaries.17\*)
- ✓ The wisdom to find and follow our path in life (LW, Meaning, Purpose & Direction .22\*)
- ✓ A maturing of our willingness and ability to look after our physical health (WW V&E.15\*)



- ❖ Are the foibles of old age being at least in part offset by this wiser and wider perspective on what counts, on the bigger picture of life, by a general movement towards self-actualization and an awareness of our mortality; and an eventual understanding of the importance of pacing ourselves and of looking after our bodies and minds?

# Results: Reliability Coefficients of Survey Measure (Beta Version 2015)

## Survey Reliability

- ❖ The literature regarding test and scale construction suggests that an acceptable level of reliability is a function of the intended use of the test results. If a test is to be used to make decisions about an individual, it is important for that test to be highly reliable. This need for higher levels of reliability goes up as the risk associated with a poor decision based on the test increases. The MEWS is not intended for use as a tool to make any selection decisions and is only for use in personal development applications
- ❖ **Test-retest:** Variability of behaviours between Time 1 and Time 2 is not necessarily a measurement error and in the case of SWB this is likely to be particularly true – because wellbeing is a dynamic and fluid state of being we would expect to see changes in wellbeing in accordance with either the benefits of any targeted wellbeing interventions and/or the degree of unforeseen challenges experienced during the elapsed time
- ❖ **Internal consistency:** The process of obtaining reliability estimates (e.g. Cronbach's Alpha) through a single administration to a group of individuals.
- ❖ For MEWS, reliability coefficients (Coefficient Alpha) were computed on the data set for each scale (or 'domain') of the MEWS Framework which in the beta version, had 10 scales across the Living Well and Working Well sections
- ❖ Results (see Table 1 MEWS Beta Version Internal Consistency Reliability) show **highly satisfactory Cronbach's alpha coefficients for all 10 scales falling well within the currently recommended (by the International Test Commission) range of 0.76 to 0.86.** Scale reliabilities higher than 0.90 suggest some item redundancy whereas scale reliabilities lower than 0.7 suggest possible multi-dimensionality

# Reliability Results: Split-Half Internal Consistencies (Beta Version 2015)

Table 1 MEWS Beta Version Internal Consistency Reliability

Working Well	Authentic Relationships	.810	12 items
Working Well	Challenge, Boundaries	.767	12 items
Working Well	Intellectual Engagement	.813	12 items
Working Well	Meaning, Purpose & Direction	.856	12 items
Working Well	Resilience	.799	12 items
Working Well	Vitality & Energy	.764	12 items
Living Well	Authentic Relations	.811	12 items
Living Well	Meaning, Purpose & Direction	.808	12 items
Living Well	Resilience	.817	12 items
Living Well	Vitality & Energy	.785	12 items

# Survey Scale / Domain Inter-correlations (Beta Version 2015)

**Table 2 MEWS Beta Version Mean Scale / Domain Inter-correlations**

N =246 / Spearman Rho.	Working Well Section of MEWS Framework						Living Well Section of MEWS Framework			
	Authentic Relationships	Meaning, Purpose & Direction	Resilience & Equanimity	Vitality & Energy	Intellectual Engagement & Flow	Challenge & Boundaries	Authentic Relationships	Meaning, Purpose & Direction	Resilience & Equanimity	Vitality & Energy
WW.Authentic.Relationships	1	.711**	.606**	.400**	.663**	.481**	.489**	.486**	.436**	.422**
WW.Meaning.Purpose.Direction	.711**	1	.615**	.479**	.791**	.532**	.503**	.679**	.490**	.463**
WW.Resilience.Equanimity	.606**	.615**	1	.386**	.547**	.602**	.428**	.512**	.633**	.472**
WW.Vitality.Energy	.400**	.479**	.386**	1	.365**	.664**	.437**	.641**	.334**	.650**
WW.Intellectual.Engagement.Flow	.663**	.791**	.547**	.365**	1	.443**	.416**	.531**	.366**	.349**
WW.Challenge.Boundaries	.481**	.532**	.602**	.664**	.443**	1	.509**	.578**	.503**	.610**
LW.Authentic.Relationships	.489**	.503**	.428**	.437**	.416**	.509**	1	.663**	.690**	.488**
LW.Meaning.Purpose.Direction	.486**	.679**	.512**	.641**	.531**	.578**	.663**	1	.590**	.598**
LW.Resilience.Equanimity	.436**	.490**	.633**	.334**	.366**	.503**	.690**	.590**	1	.497**
LW.Vitality.Energy	.422**	.463**	.472**	.650**	.349**	.610**	.488**	.598**	.497**	1

❖ Results show mean scale inter-correlations all falling within a satisfactory range

❖ The 4 domain / scales that are parallel matched across Working Well and Living Well (highlighted) also indicate a unitary construct yet with sufficiently different aspects to warrant the Living Well and Working Well distinctions

# Key Messages

- ① Motivation to reverse decline in wellbeing is high, wellbeing movement is growing in momentum and wellbeing programs of the future will be very different
- ② It's possible to create a mutually enhancing virtuous circle of wellbeing and leaders individual wellbeing needs in the workplace context need to be better understood
- ③ The proposed **Framework** appears highly relevant
- ④ Wellbeing needs are unique and variable - a '**one size approach**' to wellbeing does not fit all
- ⑤ It is important to look at an integrated '**whole self**' not just work self
- ⑥ Drill down into the Framework to obtain a **thorough diagnosis**; accurate diagnosis precedes effective intervention!
- ⑦ The survey offers a **reliable, well constructed and detailed** measurement tool
- ⑧ We need to move beyond global measures of wellbeing to help organisations, execs and their teams support their wellbeing efforts in a **strategic, targeted and holistic** manner
- ⑨ Further research underway to examine construct validity of survey, using personality measures (Hogan's Assessments) and a range of validated wellbeing and life satisfaction measures
- ⑩ Further research to repeat the analysis reported here with larger sample sizes and on new version

# Thanks & Questions?

## About the authors:

- ❖ **Audrey McGibbon**'s career in organisational psychology began in the UK in 1990, where she worked in the psychometric test development unit of SHL (CEB) before moving into executive/career assessment and development consultancy. Audrey has over 15 years' experience as an executive coach. Audrey has an MA (Hons) in Psychology and Business, and an MSc in Psychotherapy Studies. Her master's research was on the factors that drive wellbeing for senior executives. She is a registered psychologist in both Australia and the UK, as well as a Chartered Occupational Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS), an Associate Fellow of the BPS, and a member of the Division of Occupational Psychology and Psychotherapy Section of the BPS.
- ❖ **Karen Gillespie**'s career as an organisational psychologist began in the UK in 1989, where she worked for two consultancy practices before migrating to Australia in 1996. She held senior roles as the Consulting Director and Employee Development Director of SHL (CEB) before setting up her own business in 2002. She has an MA (Hons) in Psychology, an MSc in Occupational Psychology, a Graduate Diploma in Wellness and is currently studying for a Practice Certificate in Sleep Psychology through the APS. Karen is a Registered Psychologist, a Member of the Australian Psychological Society, the College of Organisational Psychologists and the Interest Group in Coaching Psychology.
- ❖ **EEK & SENSE** is the culmination of a long-term partnership between Audrey McGibbon and Karen Gillespie. Their interest in wellbeing has coincided with observations of leaders experiencing serious, persistent and unprecedented threats to their wellbeing, creating knock-on damage to performance and business outcomes. They embarked on the development of the MEWS in response to these concerns, with the goal of helping individuals and organisations achieve sustainable and strong performance, and flourish as contributors to the wellbeing of their teams, families and community at large [www.MEWSwellbeing.com.au](http://www.MEWSwellbeing.com.au)



# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables – Discussion of Findings 1



## On Seniority / Level of Role:

- ❖ MEWS findings bear testament to the benefits of ‘climbing the corporate ladder’ – **those in upper echelons of management report generally higher wellbeing** than their counterparts in middle/lower management in the following ways:
  - ✓ More ‘Meaning, Purpose & Direction’ at work and in life more generally (WW.23\*\* / LW.18\*\*)
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- ❖ Survey findings bear testament to the fact that ‘big is not always best’ and ‘small(er) is beautiful’!



# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables – Discussion of Findings 3

## On Income/Wealth: N/S

- ❖ Survey findings bear testament to the claim that for high earning tertiary qualified professionals – **‘money doesn’t buy happiness’**.
- ❖ Beware the affluenza virus!



# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables – Discussion of Findings 4

## On Gender:

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- ❖ However, item level analysis indicates some nuanced gender implications.
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# Wellbeing Correlates with Biographical Variables – Discussion of Findings 5

## On Age:

### ❖ Survey findings suggest that with chronological maturity comes:

- ✓ Greater perspective and discipline to help us balance and manage our work-life boundaries (WW Balance & Boundaries.17\*)
- ✓ The wisdom to find and follow our path in life (LW, Meaning, Purpose & Direction .22\*)
- ✓ A maturing of our willingness and ability to look after our physical health (WW V&E.15\*)



- ❖ Are the foibles of old age being at least in part offset by this wiser and wider perspective on what counts, on the bigger picture of life, by a general movement towards self-actualization and an awareness of our mortality; and an eventual understanding of the importance of pacing ourselves and of looking after our bodies and minds?