

Identity democracy and sustainability

Focusing thought

‘...the relationship between the people and their country is understood to have existed from time immemorial- to be part of the land itself.’ (Rose 1996: 35-6 cited in Atkinson, 2002:29)

Social and environmental justice?



The challenge cont

- Once we are able to realize that dualisms are at the heart of all our problems we will be able to address the convergent challenges we face. Social and environmental justice requires *the capability* and *will* to recognize the interconnections across self, other and the environment.

Intro -social and environmental justice

- Complex policy challenges span disciplinary and organizational boundaries
 - Addressing these concerns, however requires more than merely a ‘whole of government’ approach or merely co-ordinating across government to achieve excellence.

Statement of the problem

- As the world becomes hotter and natural disasters increase, the challenge for survival will become greater. We need to become increasingly resilient. This has implications for how we see ourselves, others and the environment. New approaches to social policy and governance challenges will need to be timely, inclusive and responsive. Representation of public opinion, accountability of government, and sustainability are the central challenges.

The challenge

The concept of the

- Nation state is 'too big' to enable deliberation and discursive dialogue of diverse stakeholders- individual wellbeing- How can social inclusion be mainstreamed?
- Nation state is 'too small' to address the common good of humanity and a fair share of the global commons
- How can we work the boundaries of individual and collective good?
- How can civil society work with the state and the market to enable us to achieve wellbeing?

Project 1

The research addresses

- The extent to which participation narrows the gap between perceived needs and service outcomes.
- Assesses the extent to which systemic approaches could enable on going e-democracy and e-governance in democracies with diverse interest groups by enabling ongoing matching of perceived needs and service outcomes.
- Steering from below, above and sideways requires management based on socio-cybernetics pathways. Networks are not necessarily democratic, but local and transnational networks can be governed by logic that finds root ideas and weights commonly selected options (Christakis and Bausch, 2006). This requires hierarchical sequencing.
- The need for new forms of accountability and governance to check on decisions and to hold our representatives to account in between elections. The e-governance and e-democracy process will enable testing our ideas in dialogue that enables rapport to be built by balancing collective and individual concerns. The change in policy direction that is needed is summed up by (Chambers 1997: 189) as the shift from: “Top down, blue print, measurement and standardization” to “bottom up, learning process, judgment and diversity.” He contrasts a “one size fits all approach” with a “basket of options approach”.

Aim

- To develop a means to bridge individual needs, perceptions and emotions with a sense of the common good.
- We test the principle of subsidiarity and Ashby's rule of socio-cybernetics to ascertain if it enhances mindfulness and rationality

Aim cont

- The aim is to
 - ensure that the service users build the capacity of the service providers (and not the other way around!)
 - ensure a better match between perceived needs and service outcomes.

The purpose of this research

- The research addresses what works why and how from the point of view of
 - the service users and
 - the service providers

ARC and CRCIAH research explores whether

- Rational decision making can be enhanced by testing out ideas not only by the experts but by those with lived experience- expanded testing process
- Scaling up from the individual to the collective is possible using participatory processes and open channel software
- Complex decisions need to be made by those who are to be affected by the decisions
- Scenarios using ‘if then heuristics’ can enhance rational decisions and
- If it is possible to steer from above and below using cycles of discursive and then structured dialogue improve the match between users and providers
- Prototype software can be used to build evidence based software.

Key concepts

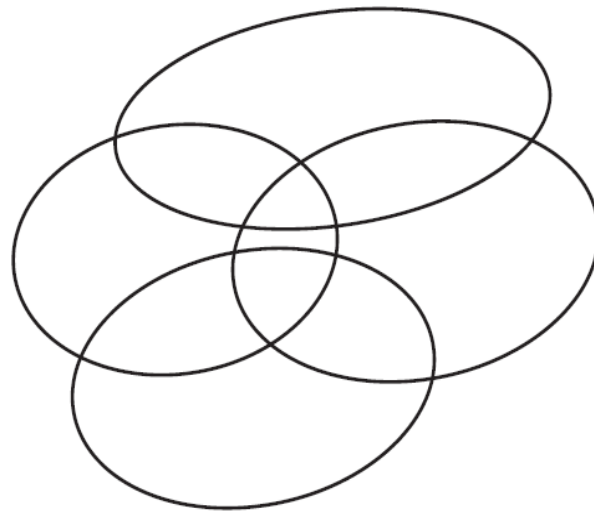
- Wellbeing
- Democracy
- Subsidiarity
- Capacity building
- Wicked problems
- Complex decisions need to be made by complex decision makers

Understanding our Interconnectedness

- The global commons and quality of life provide the bases for wellbeing. Wellbeing' is defined in terms of Nussbaum and Glover's (1995) conditions for quality of life. The concept of 'Quality of life' draws on Nussbaum's notion of capability (1995: 83), which includes the importance of critical reflection:
- *Being able to live to the end of a human life of normal length, not dying prematurely, or before one's life is so reduced as to be not worth living... Being able to form a conception of the good and to engage in critical reflection about the planning of one's own life. This includes...employment outside the home and to participate in political life...being able to show concern for other human beings...being able to live with concern for and in relation to animals, plants and the world of nature... Being able to laugh, to play, to enjoy recreational activities.*

We explore whether participation

- Enhances our thinking
- Fosters a sense of attachment
- Narrows the gap between perceived needs and service outcomes



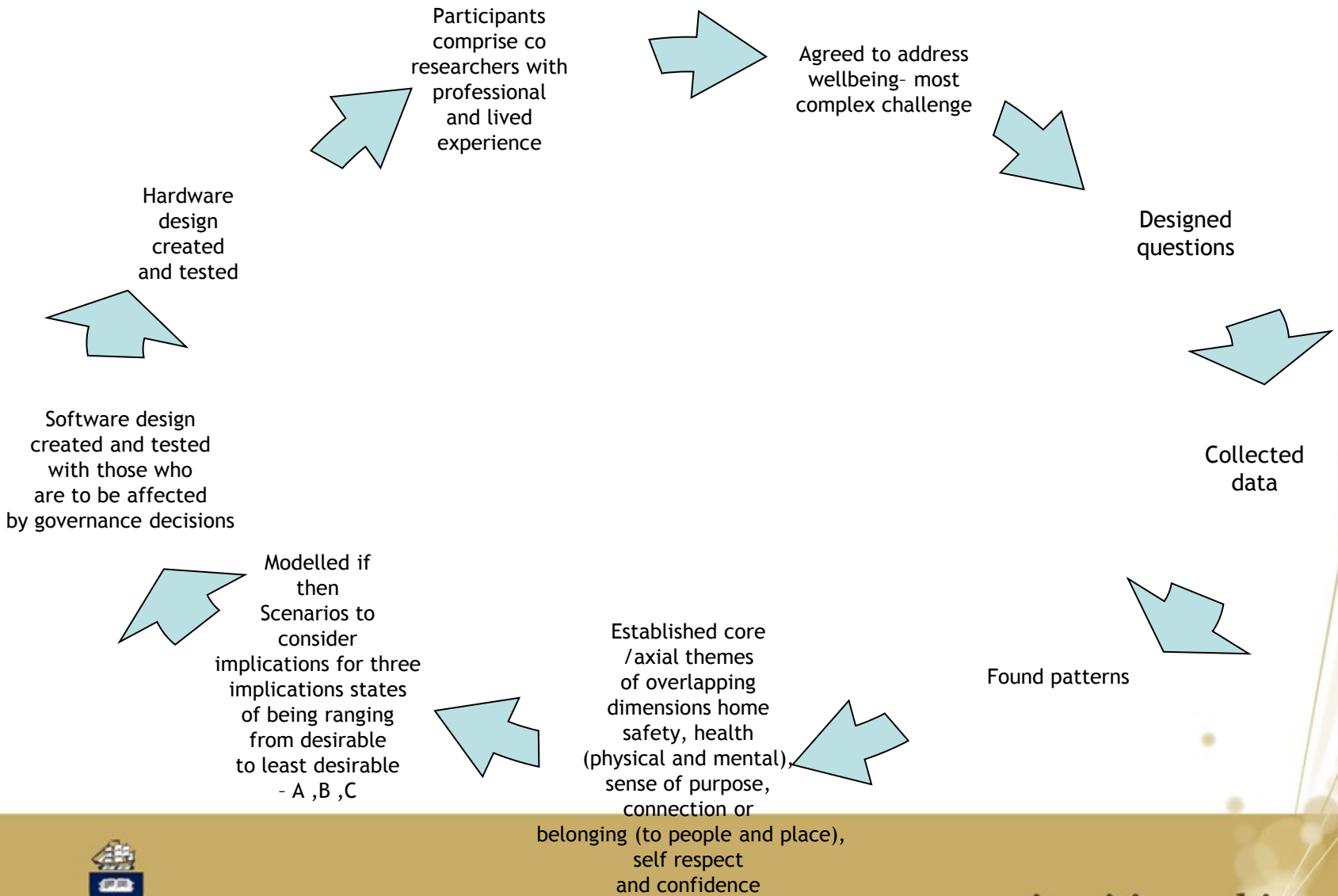
Theories of mind are
enlarged through dialogue

Systemic approach

- Cultural studies
- Critical systems thinking
- Informatics and modelling complex systems
- Sociology and public policy
- Management systems
- Governance
- Aboriginal health

Project 1 Research Hypothesis

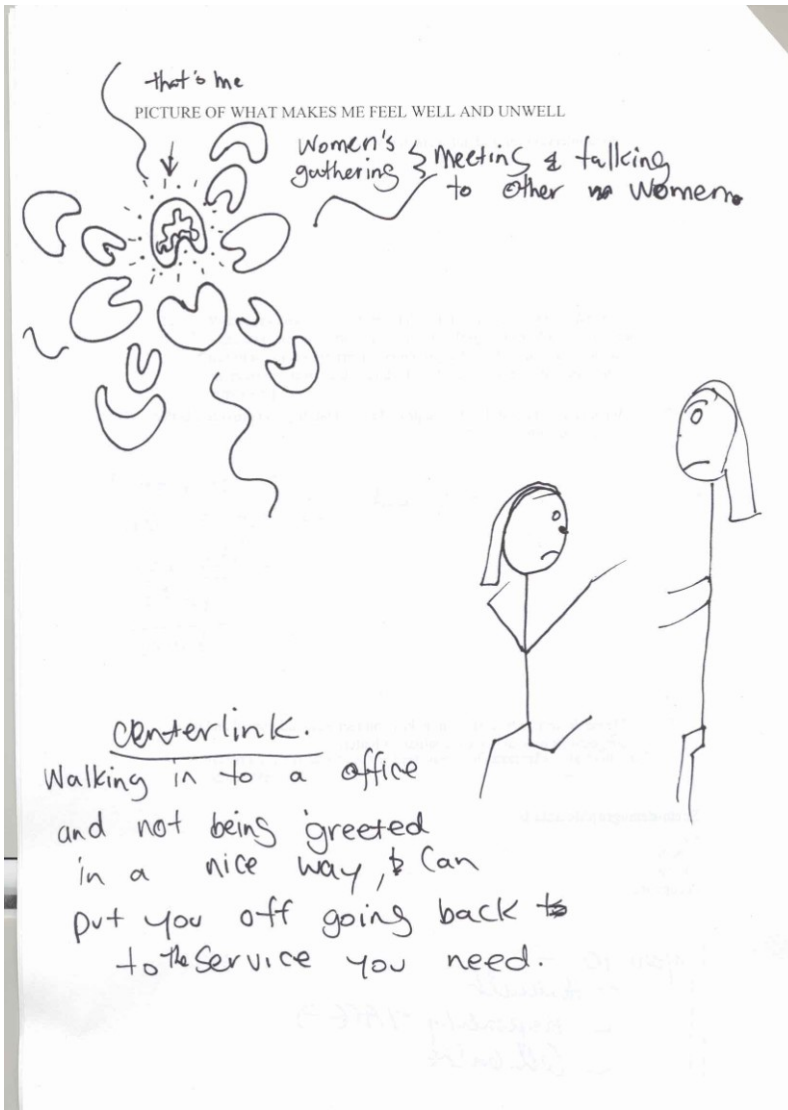
- The greater the use of participatory design processes to address complex problems (such as homelessness, family violence, drug use, unemployment and social inclusion issues) the better the problem solving outcomes for service users and providers.

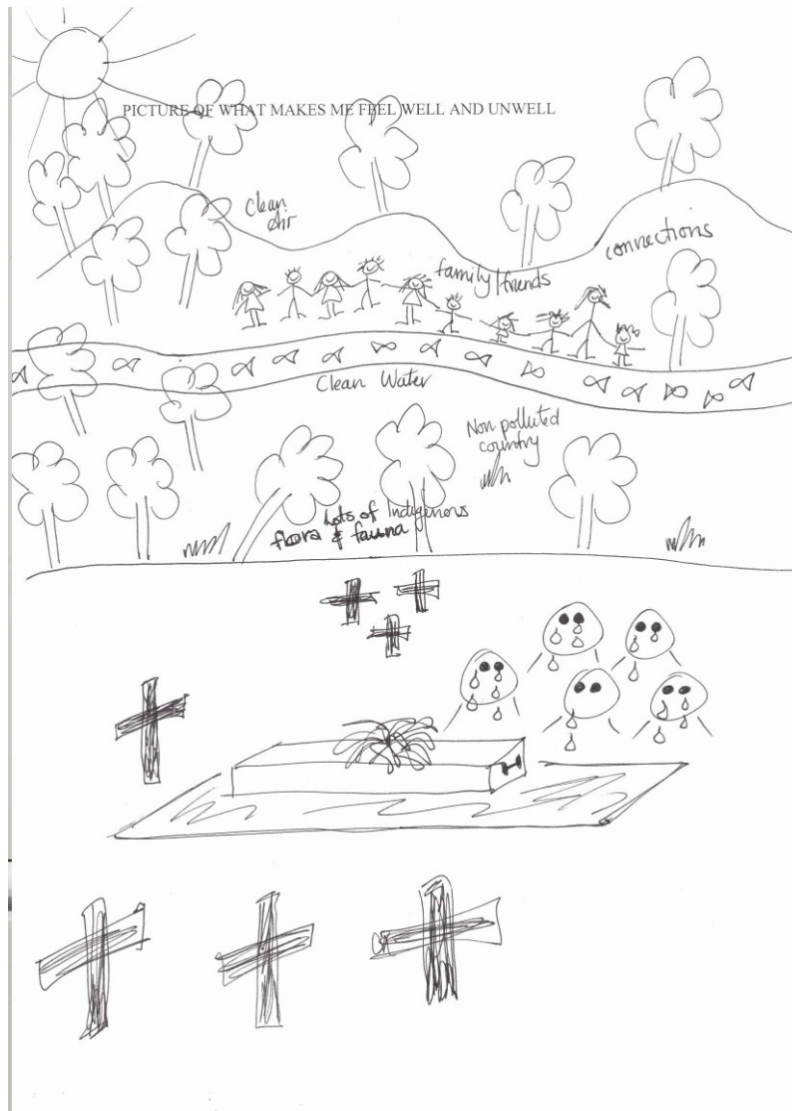


Project 1: Research Design and Approach

Participation in the design ensures that service delivery is

- matched with need
- contextual and
- responds to individual differences





Wellbeing and the River Murray



Raising consciousness



Creating shared meanings

- Personal stories of what works, why and how reveal patterns.
- Patterns provide a starting point for each service user to explore healing pathways by building on other people's experiences



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Social inclusion software on what works why and how

Step 1 - Service users tell their own
unique story to a service provider

Step 2 - Service users listen to stories
from women or men

Step 3- They start the healing pathways
journey by choosing one of three
pathways

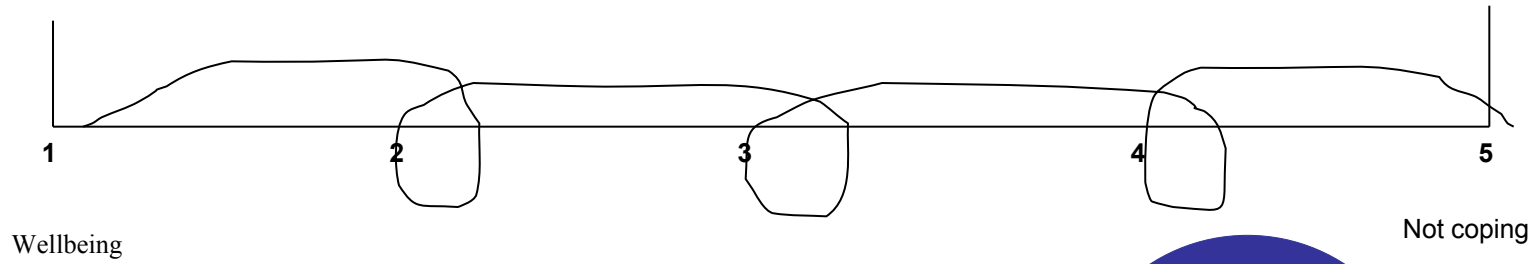
Social inclusion software on what works why and how

- Step 4- They build their own unique experiences into the program
- Step 5 – They consider :
 - What things they have in life – family, poverty, stress
 - What they need- housing, training, confidence
 - What they could add/discard- lack of confidence, a bad relationship
 - What are positive and negative turning points – telling my story, attending Nunga lunches, developing trust in a mentor
 - What are the barriers – racism, negative thinking, lack of housing
 - What services can be used and in what combination?

Combinations of 5 key factors

- Home safety
- Health
- Purpose
- Connection/belonging (people and place)
- Self respect and confidence.

Decision making



In basket – social, economic and environmental factors

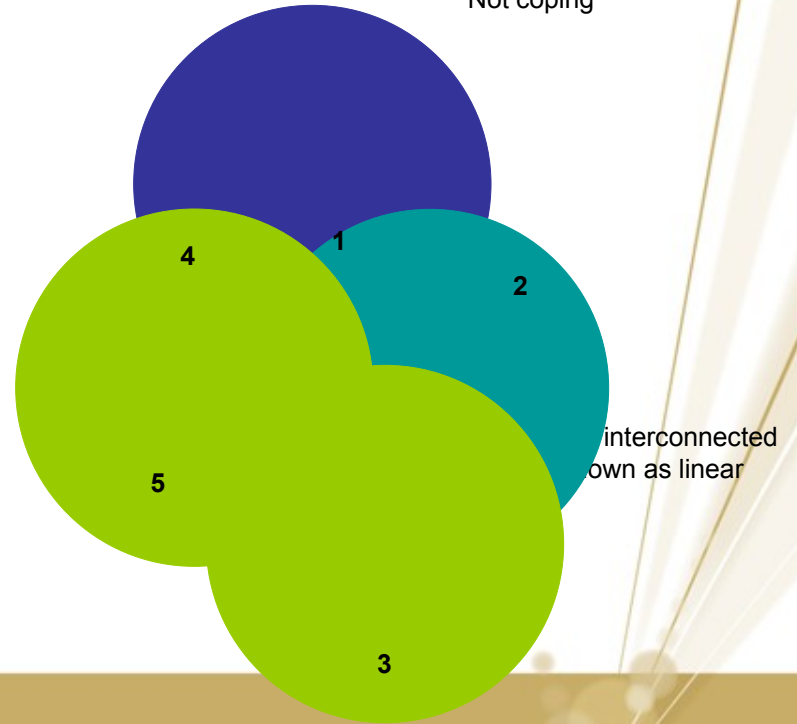
Out basket-

Turning points for better

Turning points for worse

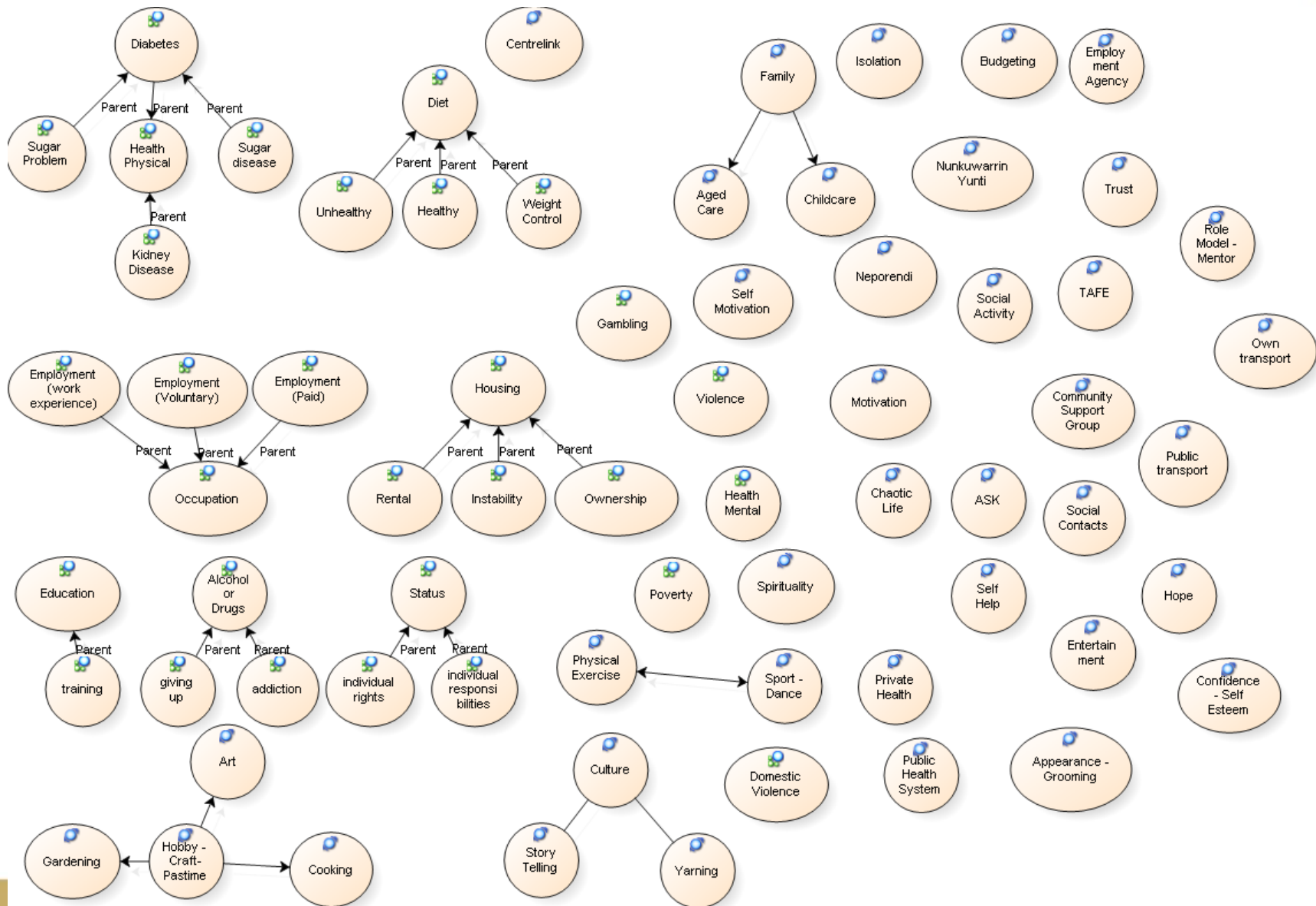
Barriers

Services that made a difference

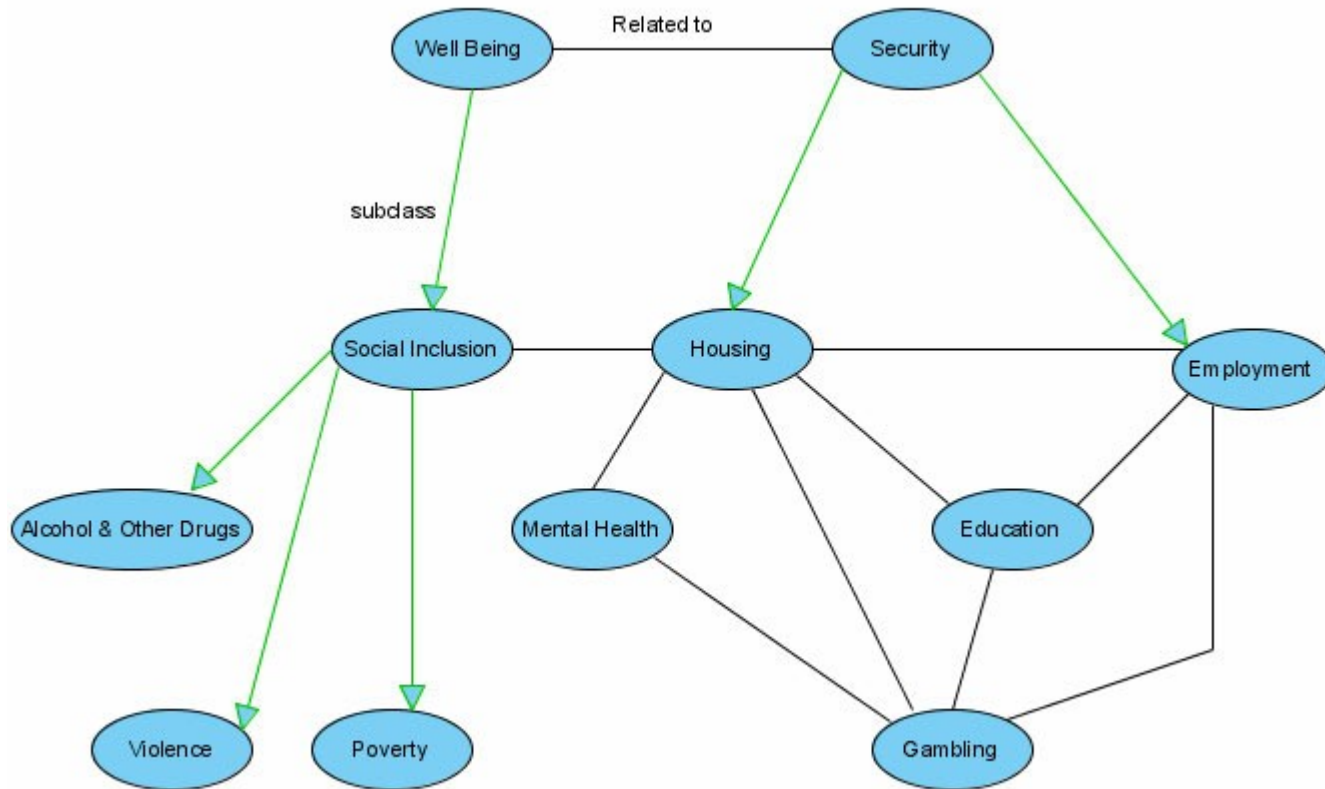


To sum up

- A combination of factors supports wellbeing



Issues are inter-related (De Vries 2006)



Analysis

- Recognition of non linear (web of relationships) is a first step for developing integrated policy responses.

Conclusion

- Those at the receiving end of a decision should be part of the decision making process.
- Complexity of the decision must match the complexity of the decision makers and the decision making context. This is vital for accountability and risk management and for matching services to perceived needs.

Co-researchers test the prototype at a workshop hosted by Flinders University and Centre for Aboriginal Research on 12 February 2008



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Project 1 : Intended project outcomes

- Capacity building of service providers by service users
- Improved outcomes for service users
- Develop and pilot a prototype to inform decision making by both users and providers
- Creation of updated data

Social inclusion software could enable

- Better communication
- Better understanding of what works, why and how from the point of view of service users
- Better storing and sharing of knowledge across providers

This is essential for matching services to need.

Overview and demonstration of the program

- Please visit <http://www.socsci.flinders.edu.au/av/pathways/binder.php> This is a dedicated website linked with the publication. There is another way to do things
- Please see https://socsci.flinders.edu.au/fippm/pathways_demo/
- Paste the address into your browser and you will see the login page. Please pretend to be the service user and type in test as your name and log in. This will enable you to use the interactive software. Go to <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Flinders%20University/207/73/26/?title=Flinders%20University%20Social%20Science>
- Participation supports greater attachment to rational, sustainable decisions through engagement with ideas and the implications for decisions. This multi-dimensional process could be useful for mainstreaming social inclusion to address the challenge of balancing individual and collective needs.
- Sharing stories and weaving together the strands of experience See McIntyre-Mills (2008:169) *User Centric Policy Design* and McIntyre-Mills 2006 *Systemic Governance and Accountability*.

Stewardship

- Our hope is our creativity. Can we design systems and technologies that sustain a future environment , or will we design systems that destroy our future?

Design for Project 2 :

In developing the computer-aided model the participatory process will identify:

- Key concepts relating to climate change;
- The decision making context;
- Constraints to achieving outcomes;
- Elements of three scenarios (denial of the need to change, too little action too late, sustainable long term adjustments); and
- Key factors (variables) in tackling the issue of climate change.

Research hypothesis

- The greater the use of dialogue to discuss ‘if then’ scenarios the greater the level of understanding of policy implications.

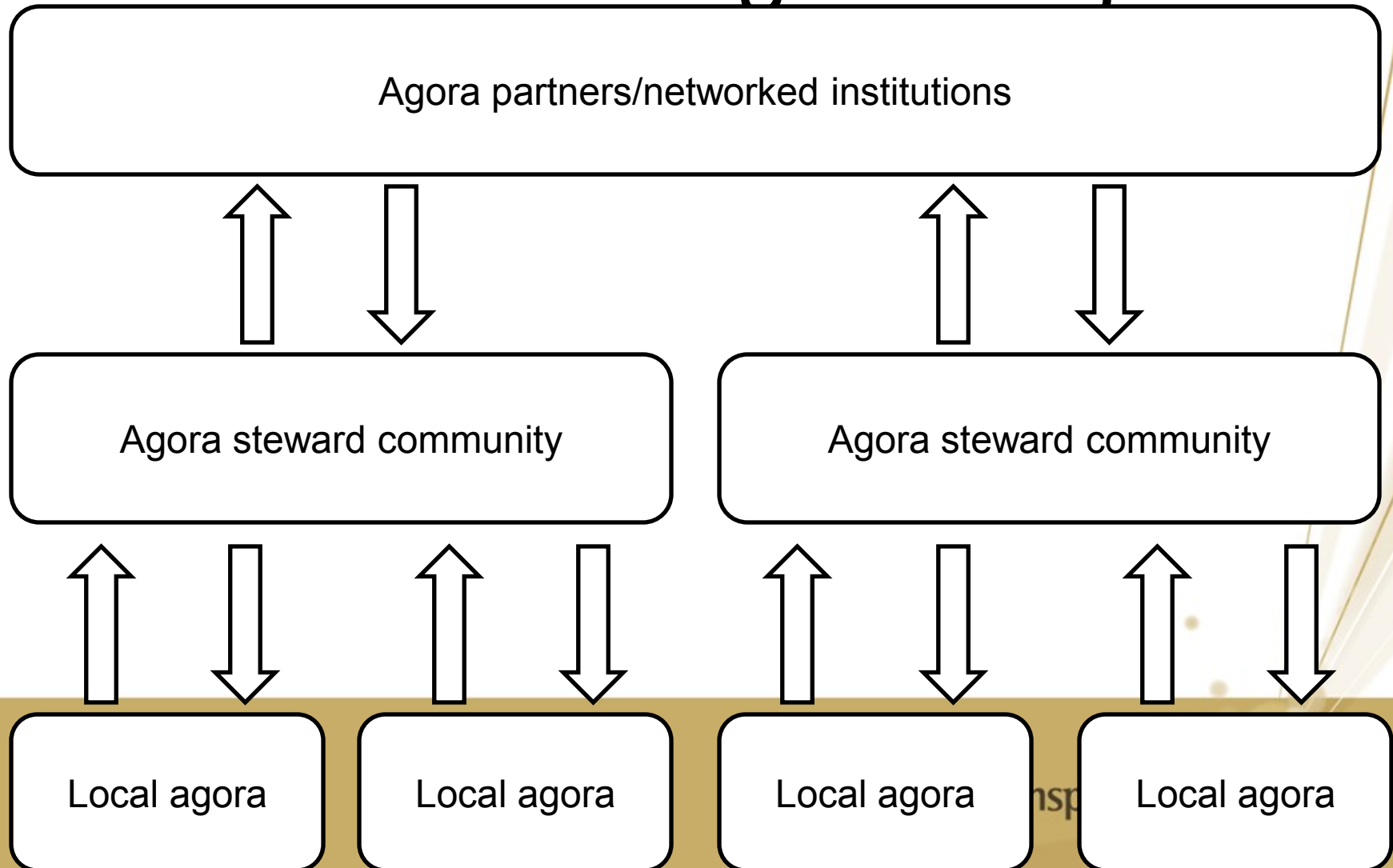
Exploratory questions

- 1 Can participatory dialogue (and conceptual tools and software) enhance representation and accountability?
- 2 What knowledge maps do service providers and service users have in relation to ways to address wellbeing, livability and the size of our carbon footprint?
- 3 How does location (hills, plains, coastal areas) impact on decisions to reduce size of carbon footprint? Are people in high risk areas more likely to make greater changes than those in low risk areas?

Conclusion

- The most marginalised in society are likely to be the most vulnerable to climate change according to Stern (2007), but Professor Fiona Stanley has stressed that the challenges facing the most marginalised in the community are challenges that could be faced more widely: “..... If you look at a civil society, it's one that is equal, that values trust, that values community above individual greed, that preserves the environment....”An uncivil society is one that is driven by an economic bottom line only.”
 - Stanley stressed (Hawke Oration lecture 17th Nov, 2008) that social and environmental justice **policy needs to be implemented**. The significance of this research is that the interactive democracy and governance system could help to achieve this goal and thus also address some of the concerns raised by Professor Behrendt (2005) about the implications of the abolition of ATSIC, the peak representative body of Aboriginal Australians and the need to develop the capability of public sector organizations to meet service needs in collaboration with service users.

The Vision -Agora Project



Potential

- Increased transparency
- Increased access to decision makers
- Reduced centralisation of decision making
- Increased active involvement of system users in system design