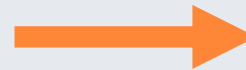
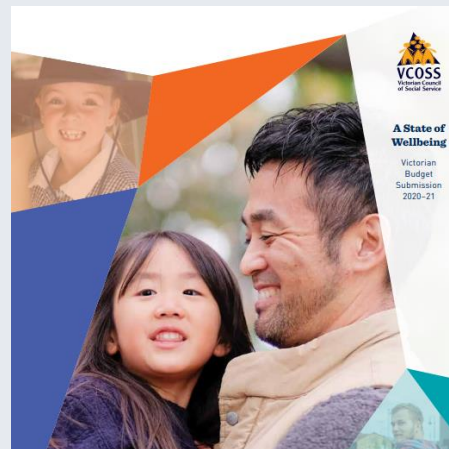


Community-led investment in what matters

VCOSS advocacy

VCOSS is the peak body for Victoria's social and community sector, and the state's premier social advocacy body.

VCOSS advocated for a wellbeing economy in its 2020 State Budget Submission and in 2022 this was fleshed out into its own chapter for a State Election Platform.



VOICES of VICTORIA LISTENING TOUR 2022

HOW PEOPLE FELT two years into the pandemic



"We rebuilt after we lost everything in the bushfires, we dealt with COVID, we are resilient, but there's only so many times you can bounce back."

"I've seen two people this last two weeks... there should be more people in a life than that!"

"We looked after each other. We made sure everyone had enough food when there were shortages."

WHAT WE HEARD KEY CHALLENGES PEOPLE RAISED



COMMUNITY HOPES for the FUTURE

- 1 SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH MEETING THEIR IMMEDIATE AND PRESSING NEEDS SUCH AS COST OF LIVING PRESSURES, LONELINESS AND ISOLATION, AND HOUSING
- 2 EMPOWER ALL PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC LIFE, AND REMOVE BARRIERS TO INCLUSION
- 3 INVEST IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF A 'GOOD LIFE' THAT PROVIDE EVERYONE WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE AND PROTECT AGAINST POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS AND POOR HEALTH OVER THE LONG TERM
- 4 COMMIT TO VICTORIA BECOMING A WELL-BEING ECONOMY AND UNDERTAKE FURTHER CONSULTATIONS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT VICTORIANS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE AND WANT GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER



COMMUNITIES WE VISITED

WHO WE HEARD FROM



EMERGING STRENGTHS of the PANDEMIC



Some of what we heard

“I’ve seen two people this last two weeks ... there should be more people in a life than that.”

“My 16-year-old son has a learning difficulty, and we don’t own a computer. How is he supposed to complete TAFE online?”

“If the landlord decides she wants more money, next year she can put [the rent] up. Then where do I go?”

“We looked after each other. We made sure everyone had enough food when there were shortages.”

1. Embed equality

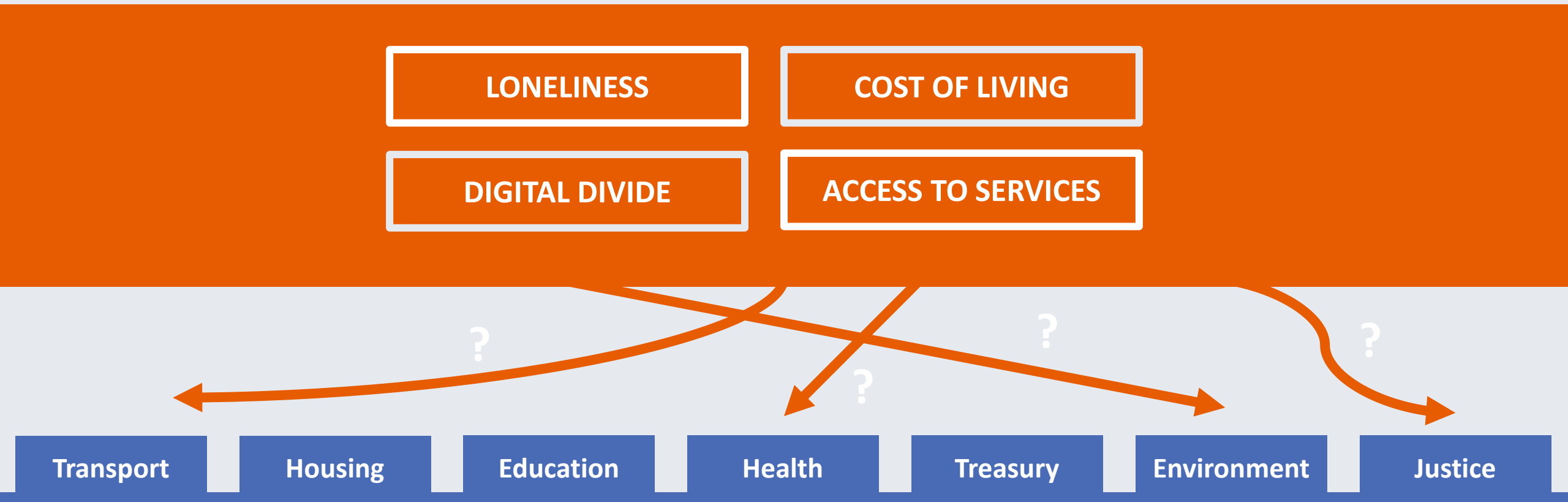
Wellbeing economies put equity front and centre.

Wellbeing priorities reframe disadvantage with a strength-based approach.



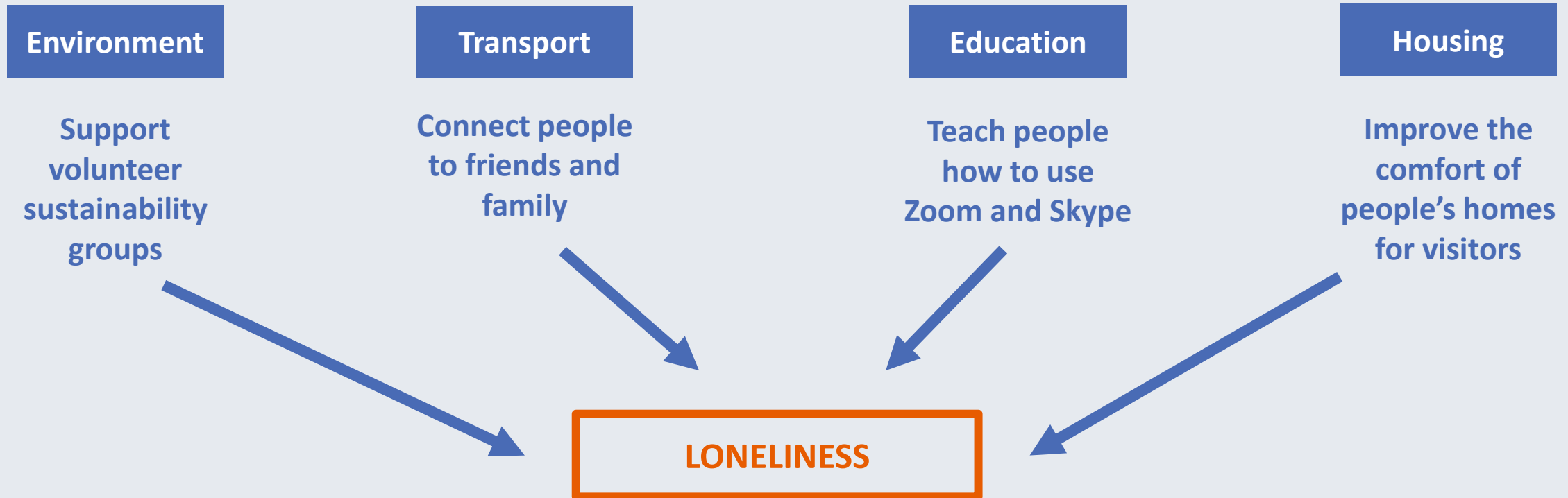
2. Break down silos

People's concerns didn't fit neatly into portfolios:



2. Break down silos

Departments are encouraged to ask ‘how can we help solve this problem?’ rather than ‘does this problem fit into our remit?’



3. Engage the community



Consistent feedback from the Listening Tour was that people appreciated being listened to about what matters to them.

“Thank for you for the opportunity to be heard. Very much appreciated.”

- Community member, St Albans

“It must not be easy running a government but they need to listen to common people too.”

- Community member, Cloverdale

“I’m forever grateful.”

- Community member, Morwell

“I think the VCOSS service should be done quarterly at all Neighbourhood Houses as it was a counselling service in itself.”

- Community member, Shepparton

3. Engage the community

Wellbeing economies are developed by meaningfully asking community members what government should deliver.



“What matters to you and your whanau, here and now, and in the future?”



“What is the Wales you want for future generations?”

Next steps



A formal commitment to become a wellbeing economy.



Further consultation with communities across Victoria.



A Wellbeing Framework that captures Victorians' priorities.

Next steps



A **Minister for Wellbeing** to champion the reform.



A **new government branch** to drive the process.



Legislation to enshrine the approach.

Thank you



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