



Deliberate ACT is comprised of members of the public, academics, passionate democracy advocates, engagement practitioners and public servants.

A collaborative Steering Group from ACT Government, Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy, ACT Practitioner and the University of Canberra Centre for Deliberative Democracy support the implementation of the Community of Interest meetings. A terms of reference are available for the Steering Group.

Purpose

Through Meet Up #1 and Meet Up #2, we collectively determined a broad purpose for the community of interest.

Broadly our purpose is to strengthen the understanding of engagement practices, processes, the decision making and outcomes within our community.

- We want to be a community that explore what deliberative engagement is, what it could be and what can we bring to the group and the Canberra community
- We provide learning opportunities through deliberating and facilitating on topics
- We can look at a process of engagement or deliberation and provide a critical assessment but we don't look to solve the topic or subject matter that is within that process

Meet Up Structure

Through Meet Up #1 and Meet Up #2, we collectively determined key features of our meetings.

1. Each Meet Up is a deliberation - we have a topic or focus
2. We undertake 10 minutes of scene setting to enrich the following discussion – this may include theory or definition, an overview of a project, the sharing of different perspectives.
3. Facilitators are voluntarily drawn from the community
4. Note takers volunteer and help to summarise the deliberation

Ground Rules

Through Meet Up #1 and Meet Up #2, the Community of Interest established the ground rules for how the group would operate.

The ground rules help us have a safe space where we can talk about tough, challenging things while being respectful of the range of perspectives in the community of interest.

Our intention is to review ground rules periodically and that these rules be displayed during each Meet Up.

- We are respectful and mindful of others and of different roles, experiences and views
- We are not afraid to find the 'no' in the room – in fact we tend to seek it out as this opens the door to greater deliberation
- We want to talk about serious things, think big but take small steps
- We always ask questions – because this is about critical thinking and deep learning
- We challenge assumptions
- We always reflect back what we have heard and check in with each other
- We create a safe space, the Chatham House rule applies
- Chatham House rule stipulate:
 - Commentary or ideas arising cannot be attributed to an individual speaker or disseminated in a way that identifies, either explicitly or implicitly, who said what – this includes social media posts, media commentary and conversations outside the meeting.
 - Protecting the anonymity of speakers
 - Encouraging openness and the sharing of information by providing anonymity
 - A member or guest who breaks the rule may be excluded from future activities or meetings

Last updated: 3 April 2018