

Recap Meet-Up #5 – 2 August 2018



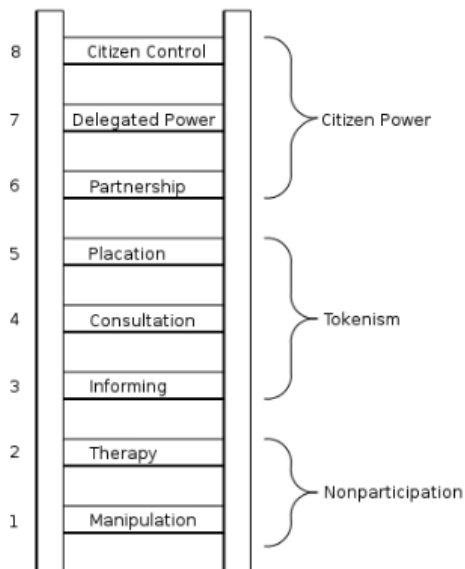
Meet Up Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Check – in
3. **Guest Speaker: Professor Janette Hartz-Karp – Janette will discuss deliberative engagement - what works, what doesn't and explore the principles that underpin a good deliberative engagement process and support trust.**
4. Q&A with Janette
5. Discussion and reflection
6. Lunch and networking
7. **Next meeting, 6 September at 5.30pm**
 - a. Facilitation

This was the fifth meeting of Deliberate ACT. Guest speaker Professor Janette Hartz-Karp attended to discuss deliberative engagement.

The meeting was facilitated by Nate Leslie. Following the Q&A with Janette, there was a discussion and participants reflected by putting post-its on a board.

Janette gave a brief presentation where she spoke about the declining levels of trust in government, that citizens want a relationship with government. Using the Arnstein Model (see below) she asserted that citizens don't want full Citizen Control, nor do they want Tokenism or Non participation but they want a 'Partnership'.



Source: A Ladder of Citizen Participation - Sherry R Arnstein

Janette spoke about the experience in Greater Geraldton, WA of building a Strategic Plan for the area based on months of deliberation. The plan survives today. See further reading below to delve more into this example.

She spoke about the importance of random selection in deliberative processes but that we are still learning and trialing new ways and methods of recruiting citizens.

Janette spoke about the importance of the sponsor of the process being very clear about what they will do with the results of the deliberative process and then follow through. This is a key element of establishing and maintaining trust.

She spoke about the use of a variety of deliberative methods in the Geraldton example to suit different audiences.

Janette's presentation involved unpublished work, so unfortunately we can't share this with the group. However Janette has promised to share this work when it is ready.

The group reflected on Janette's presentation and suggested future topics as we broke for a light lunch and a chance to discuss what we've learnt.

The following are the statements, verbatim and non-attributable that were made in the session.

Reflections

We asked participants to reflect on Janette's presentation and discussion. We have themed these comments:

DeliberateACT

- Great to be developing partnership in Deliberate ACT between government, academic, civil society
- Would be great to ask whole group what questions are arising for you now? (without answering them)
- We have got to trust each other!
- Fantastic academic speaker and questions but not enough time for discussion
- Excited that Deliberate ACT could be the seed that starts this change
- Empathetic listening and critical thinking

Deliberation & methods

- The importance of evaluating intention and performance influencing trust
- There needs to be method innovation driven by principles and tailored to context, strengthened by research and evaluation
- Does deliberation transform pre-existing ideas of "wisdom" on issues and how can this transform politics
- More explanation of simple tools and processes. Empathetic listening and critical thinking

Community capacity building

- Will trust continue to decline with increase in online and individual preferences in culture?
- What would happen if we changed the word "trust" with "authenticity"?
- Government pick up on "fails" as learning opportunity
- Relationships are important parts of the partnership – how do we help these develop among ordinary citizens who are time-poor
- It occurred to me it's about helping people find the answer that is already inside them such that it causes their success.

- Building trust and how to engage with citizens (grass roots)
- Tension between the parliamentary branch of government and the executive. Empowering well-connected local members of Parliament to have influence over executive decision making.



Case studies

- Great to hear personal stories and learning insights from an Australian practitioner
- Great to hear Janette's information about processes in other countries. Would be great to have a summary of some of these international processes to help promote deliberative democracy

Future topics

We have themed these comments:

Deliberation & methods

- Have an experience of "Deep Democracy" (the Lewis method) <https://deep-democracy.net/category/deep-democracy-basics/>
- Would like an experience of methods
- How to design deliberative mini-publics
- I'm interested to explore the Arnstein/gap model - <http://lithgow-schmidt.dk/sherry-arnstein/ladder-of-citizen-participation.html>
- Can the topic be too broad for a citizens' jury?
- (After a mini-public) How do we know if there has been actual "deliberation"?
- Ethical values and the common good
- Deliberative processes require slower decision-making. Time to think and learn. Time to listen. Time to deliberate. How do we make time?
- How to engage young people in political processes
- What methods will reach the people?

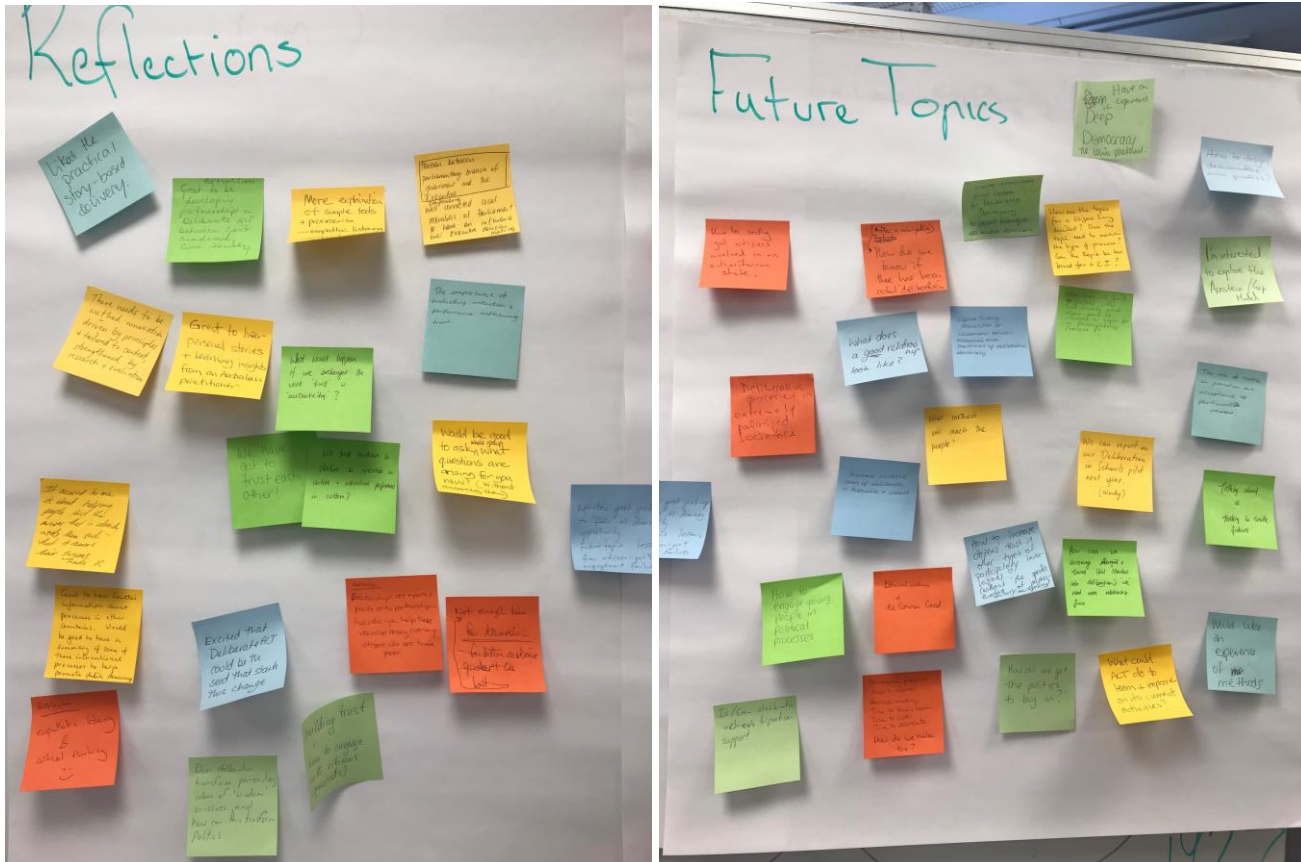
Community capacity building

- Is/can deliberation achieve bipartisan support
- Talking about vs. talking to create futures
- The role of media in promotion and acceptance of participative processes
- How are the topics for a citizens' jury decided? Does the topic need to match the type of process?
- When and how will the government partner with civil society to choose a topic for a participatory process?
- How can we encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders into deliberations? We need more relationship focus
- How do we get the politics to buy in?
- Explore funding opportunities for collaboration between researchers and practitioners of deliberative democracy
- How to increase citizens' trust in other types of participatory innovations? (without the specific function of participatory budgeting)
- What does a good relationship look like?

Case studies

- We can report on our deliberation in schools next year (Wendy)
- Invite researchers from Centre of Deliberative Democracy to present findings in deliberative democracy
- Deliberative processes in extremely polarised societies
- Showcase successful cases of deliberation in Australia and the world
- Lessons from citizen-government engagement failures
- What could ACT do to learn and improve on its current activities?
- How to really get citizens involved in an authoritarian state?

Post-it exercise images:



Further Reading:

[Laying the Groundwork for Participatory Budgeting – Developing a Deliberative Community and Collaborative Governance: Greater Geraldton, Western Australia](#)

[Deliberative Democracy Theory and Practice: Crossing the Divide](#)

[Deliberative Collaborative Governance as a Democratic Reform to Resolve Wicked Problems and Improve Trust](#)

<http://lithgow-schmidt.dk/sherry-arnstein/ladder-of-citizen-participation.html>

Further listening:

Real Democracy Now podcast - <http://realdemocracynow.com.au/>

Centre for Public Impact - <https://www.centreforpublicimpact.org/podcast/>



Next Meeting – Thursday 6 September, 5.30pm, Museum of Australian Democracy