

Recap Meet Up #10 – Thursday 11 April 2019



Meet Up Agenda

1. Welcome and update

- Update on the Whole of Government Communications and Engagement Plan

2. Introductions from group

3. Introduction to topic

4. Group activities

- small group activity - "What are the capabilities required for good deliberation?"
- small group activity - "What are the capabilities required for good deliberating on several small group contributions in a large mini-public?"
- large group activity - deliberating on contributions and insights from small groups using frameworks from step 2
- large group activity - "What should happen next for good deliberation to continue to grow in this mini-public?"

5. Checkout and close

Next meeting – 5:30pm 23 May 2019

Topic

Deliberating Well: What skills and attributes you need to get the most out of deliberation, in an interactive and practical way.

Welcome

Facilitator, Mark Spain welcomed the group of around 16 participants.

The facilitator outlined that Meet Up #10 would consider the skills and capabilities needed for good deliberation. A topic that will be continued through the next two or three sessions.

Update on Whole of Government Communication and Engagement Plan 2019

The meeting heard from Karen Stewart-Moore, Senior Director, Whole of Government Strategic Engagement. Karen provided an overview of the 2019 Whole of Government Communication and Engagement Plan, that outlines the ACT Government's priority engagements and information campaigns for the year. View the plan [here](#).

Introduction

Members of the group introduced themselves to each other.

Grounding activity

The group split into two groups, where one was asked to think about what works well when doing group-work, and the other was asked to reflect on a time and place where group-work was successful.

Members of each group partnered up to exchange answers, and then shared back to the group. Three key messages were:

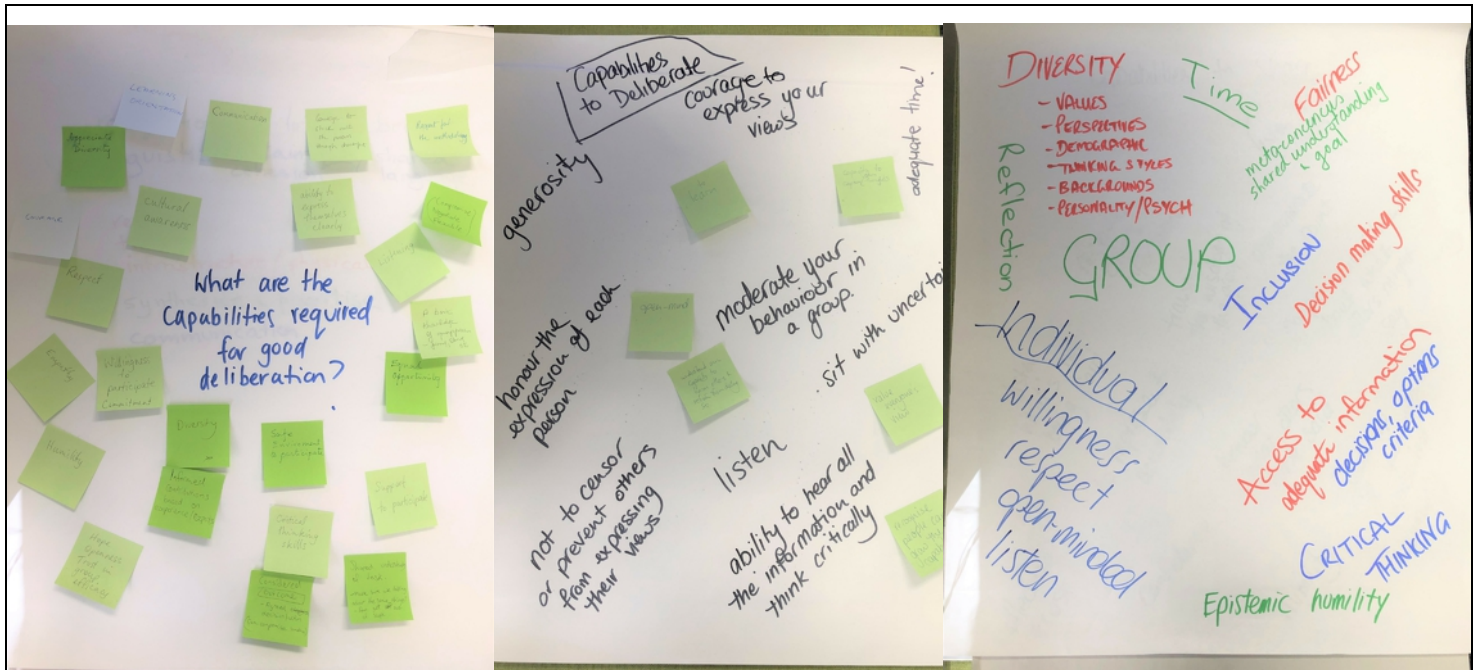
- Feeling safe within a group to share ideas
- Confidence that your ideas are listened to
- Recognition of power imbalance.

Small group activities

The group broke off in to three smaller groups to discuss:

Question 1: "What are the capabilities required for good deliberation?"

Responses

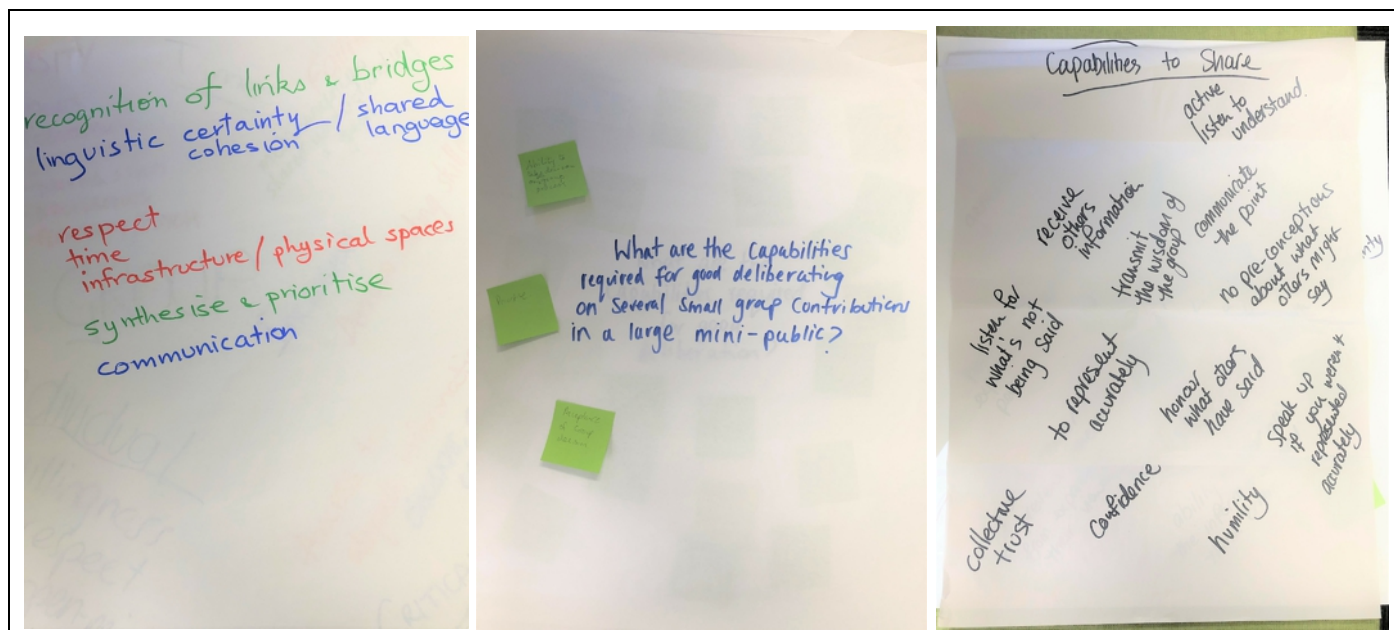


- Listening
- Respect for the methodology
- Courage to stick with the process through discomfort
- A basic knowledge of group process
- Equal opportunity
- Compromise, negotiate, flexible
- Support to participate
- Shared understanding of task
- Critical thinking skills
- Considered outcome
- Informed contributions based on experience/experts
- Hope openness, trust in group efficacy
- Humility
- Diversity
- Willingness to participate
- Empathy
- Respect
- Courage
- Cultural awareness
- Appreciate diversity
- Learning orientation
- Ability to express themselves clearly

- Generosity
- Courage to express views
- Adequate time
- Sit with uncertainty
- Moderate your behavior in a group
- Listen
- Value everyone's view
- Ability to hear all information and think critically
- Not to censor or prevent others from expressing their views
- Honor the expression of each person
- Open-mind
- Capacity to capture own thoughts

- Diversity- values, perspectives, demographic, thinking styles, backgrounds, personality, psych
- Time
- Fairness- meta-consensus, shared understanding and goal
- Inclusion
- Decision making skills
- Access to adequate information- decision, options, criteria
- Critical thinking
- Epistemic humility
- Reflection
- Individual, willingness, respect, open-minded

Question 2: “What are the capabilities required for good deliberating on several small group contributions in a large mini-public?”



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of links and bridges • Linguistic certainty, cohesion/Shared language • Respect, time, infrastructure/physical spaces • Synthesise and prioritise, Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance of group decision • Prioritise • Ability to take decision on the group process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive others information • Transmit the wisdom of the group • Communicate the point • Active listening to understand • Humility • Speak up if you weren't represented accurately • No pre-conceptions on what others might say • Listen for what's not being said • Collective trust • Honor what others have said • To represent accurately • Transmit the wisdom of the group • Confidence
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Question 3: “What should happen next for good deliberation to continue to grow in this mini-public?”

The group discussed the need to validate outcomes and reporting from the group on the topic, with some research and study. Further discussion to form part of future meet ups.

Group work file location

[Google doc](#)

Wrap-up and close

Next Meeting – 5:30pm 23 May 2019

Deliberating Well – Have you got what it takes? The session will continue this topic and discuss the practicalities of designing and running deliberative processes.

Future topics

These topics were brought up at a previous meeting. They have been kept here as a reference.

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?
- 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

- 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?

Further Reading

WPP – 2nd Leaders Report – ‘increasing trust through citizen engagement’

<https://www.citizensassembly.ie/en/>;

Participedia - <https://participedia.net/>

Further listening

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

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