

Recap Meet Up #11 – Thursday 23 May 2019



Meet Up Agenda

1. **Welcome and introductions**
2. **Introduction to topic**
3. **Group activities**
 - small group activity – Discussing the capabilities/behaviours list
 - Group discussion
4. **What conditions are needed to enhance deliberative behaviours and processes?**
 - Group discussion
5. **Checkout and close**

Topic

Deliberating Well – What conditions are needed?

Welcome

Facilitator, Wendy Russell and Simon Niemeyer welcomed the group of around 12 participants.

The facilitator outlined that Meet Up #11 would discuss what conditions are needed to enhance deliberative behaviors and processes.

Introduction

Members of the group introduced themselves.

Group activity 1 – Capabilities and behaviours list

The group discussed the list of capabilities and behaviours for deliberation created from Meet Up #10. Are we happy with the list? What could we do with this? How could we work with this?

In reporting back, the group discussed:

- The need to consider diverse views and approaches
- It is not necessary for everyone participating to have all of the identified 'capabilities'. In fact, someone who has few of them might still add something valuable to the group!
- Storytelling- how we relate to personal storytelling allows us to build relationships and build empathy
- Understanding different styles of communicating
- When working in teams, it is useful to identify different individual's skills and capabilities the group can bring together
- Skills aren't only about what an individual may know, but also their ability to gauge what others are thinking
- Facilitators may not always pick up on everything happening in a forum/workshop- participants need to gauge a group sentiment as well
- Self-reflection is important.

Group activity 2 – Enhancing Deliberative Behaviours

Simon Niemeyer presented on procedures to enhance deliberation ([Activation and Reasoning slides attached](#)) and a group discussion followed.

Wrap-up and close

Next meeting – to be confirmed

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>