



# Government *with* the people – building trust in deliberative processes

Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

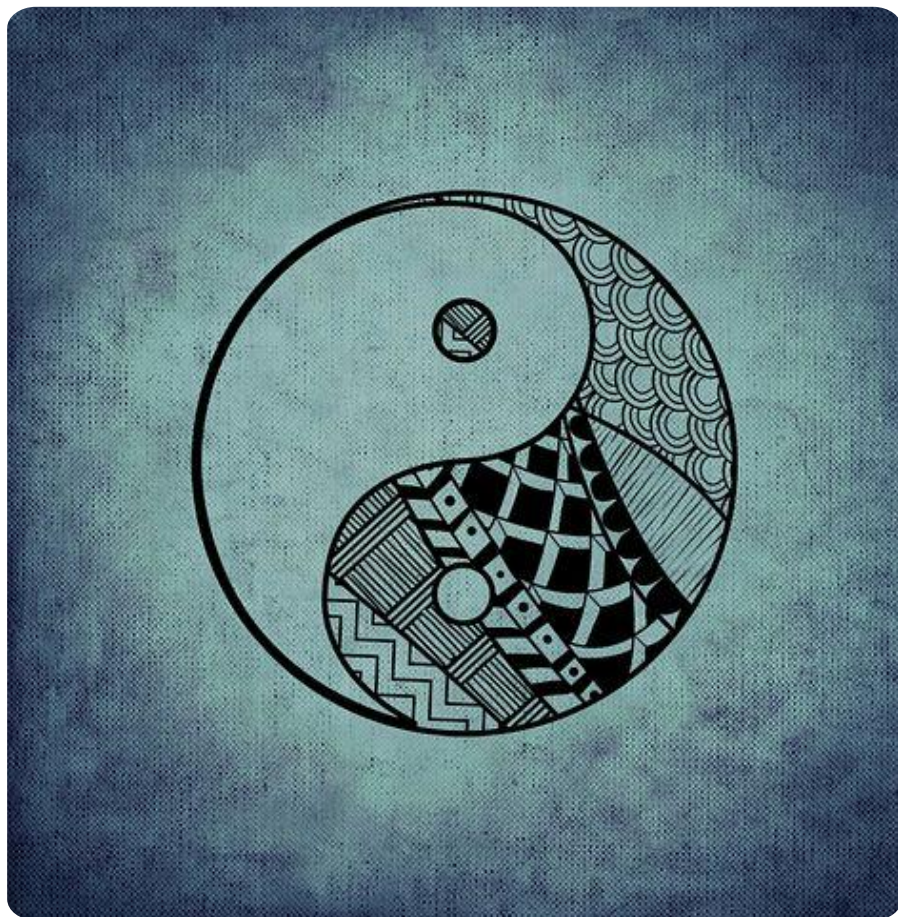
26 July 2020





# Representative democracy today

- The 'dictatorship of elections'
- Delegation of power and only sanction is the vote
- Democracy has become oligarchical
- Democracy itself needs to be democratised

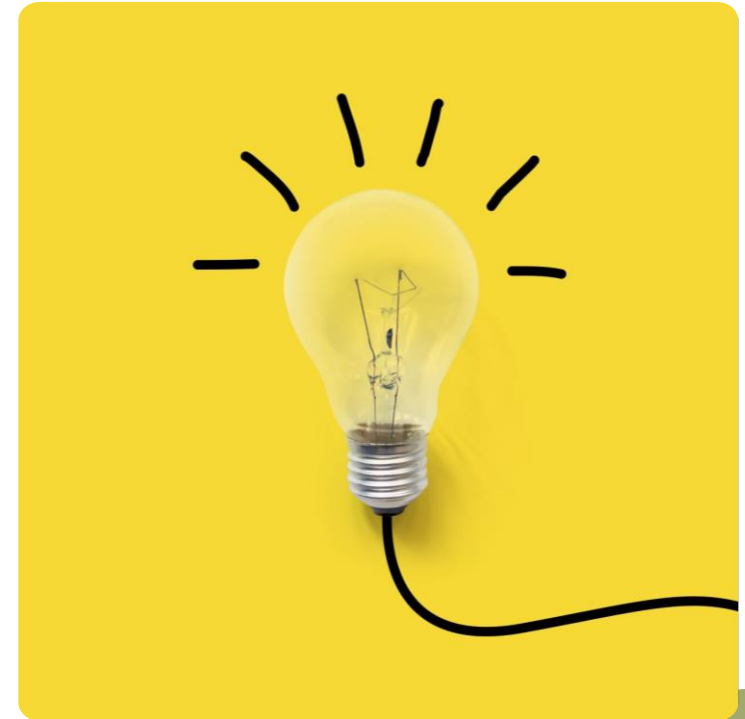


# Government *with* - The ecosystem of democracy

- Democracy is both a way of life and a governing system
- Two interdependent components - one government and one civic
- Citizens *can't* be left on the sidelines because their work is needed to complete the work of democracy
- Democracy is weakened if we delegate too much to government or if citizen influence is taken over by vested interests.

# David Matthews:

Government *with* is not just another form of participation,  
it is a different way of thinking about the relationship citizens could have with their governing institutions,  
and it can open the way to imagining new ways of acting.





# What is deliberation?



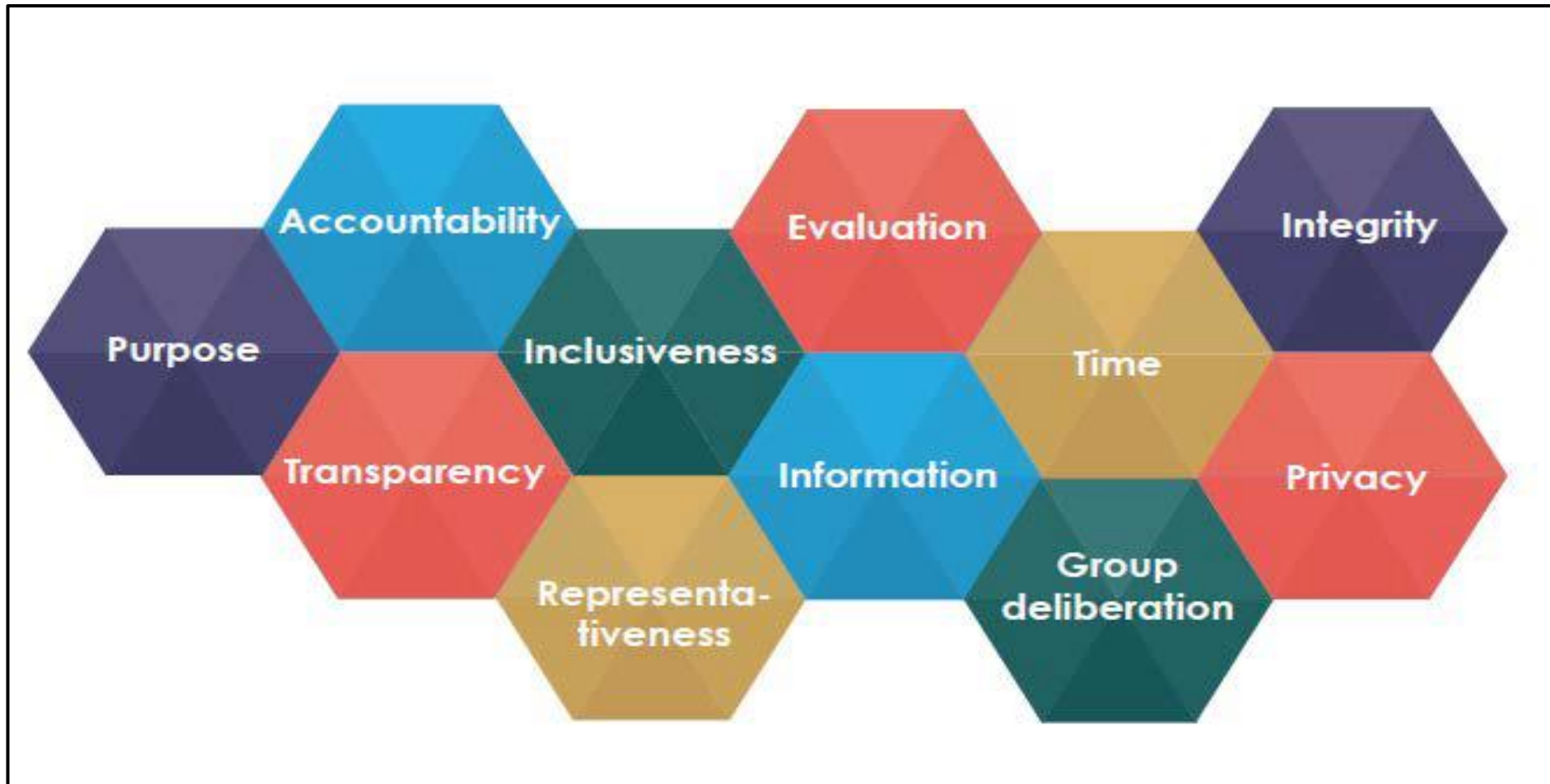
- Deliberation means to weigh carefully both the consequences of various options and the views of others. It requires
  - access to accurate, relevant information from diverse perspectives
  - adoption of broadly-shared criteria for reaching decisions, which take account of the views of others
  - application of those criteria to proposed solutions, to weigh trade-offs, and find common ground for a group decision.

# ‘Not just a fancy way for the elites to have their say’

- Trust is needed, especially in crisis - to strengthen democracy and to strengthen society itself
- Society is everyone’s business – polarisation hurts everyone
- Implementation is hard and will not happen without trusting partnerships



# OECD good practice principles for deliberative processes in decision making



<b>CAPAD/ACTCOSS</b>	<b>OECD</b>
<b>5. GETTING THE QUESTION RIGHT</b>	<b>1. Purpose</b>
<b>4. COMMITMENT TO PROCESS AND OUTCOME</b>	<b>2. Accountability</b>
<b>1. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF ALL PHASES</b>	<b>3. Transparency</b>
<b>6. DIVERSITY of PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>4. Representativeness</b>
	<b>5. Inclusiveness</b>
<b>9. BREADTH and ACCESSIBILITY of STAKEHOLDER INPUT</b>	<b>6. Information</b>
<b>12. DELIBERATION FACILITATED</b>	<b>7. Group deliberation</b>
<b>8. ADDEQUATE TIME ALLOWED</b>	<b>8. Time</b>
<b>3. OPEN-MINDEDNESS</b>	<b>9 Integrity</b>
<b>7. NEUTRALITY of CONVENORS</b>	
	<b>10. Privacy</b>
<b>11. REFLECTION and IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>11.Evaluation</b>
<b>2. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION and CONFIDENCE BUILDING</b>	
<b>10. BROADER ENGAGEMENT</b>	



# Key findings of CAPaD citizens' review

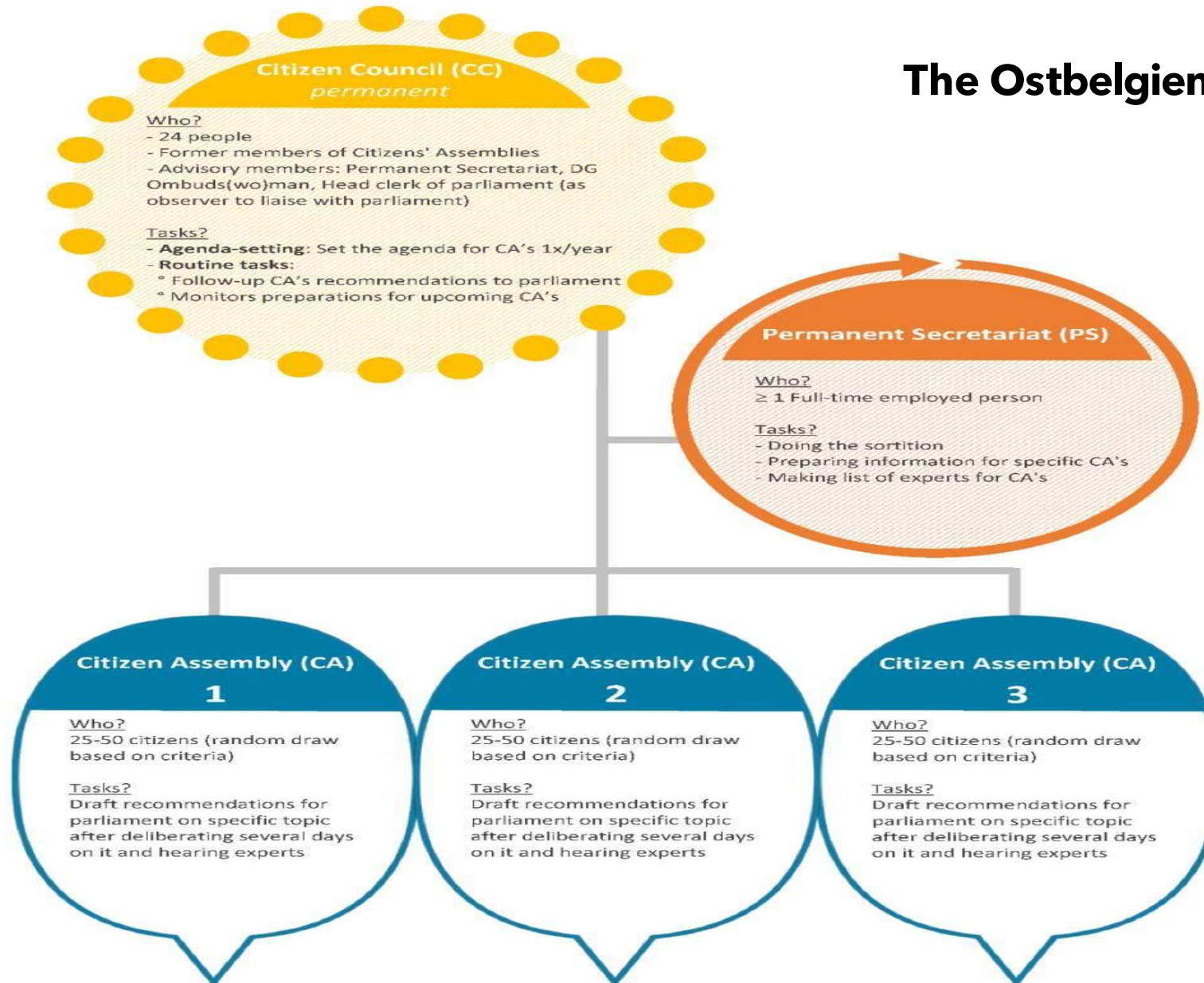
- A diverse range of people can address complex issues and deliberate in the public interest, regardless of educational standards, socio-economic status and political interest.
- Citizens valued the experience, learned about the complexity of policy making, gained depth from the diversity of the group and felt satisfaction through contributing to the community.
- The quality and independence of design and facilitation were major contributors to trust in the process.
- While citizens can make a useful contribution to policy decisions, deliberative processes are not a panacea – they are complex democratic tools which can be used well or badly



# Why institutionalise citizen deliberation?

- Enables government to take more hard decisions
- Can bring about better policy and better acceptance of decisions
- Economies of scale
- Improves practice through collective learning
- Can increase trust in government
- Provides more opportunities to build capacity in citizens
- Can build social capital by creating trust among the citizenry

# The Ostbelgien Model







# 2019 Latimer Review

'In view of the Executive's interest in deliberative engagement, the potential for a citizens' council should be explored as a structure that complements and supplements the Legislative Assembly....'