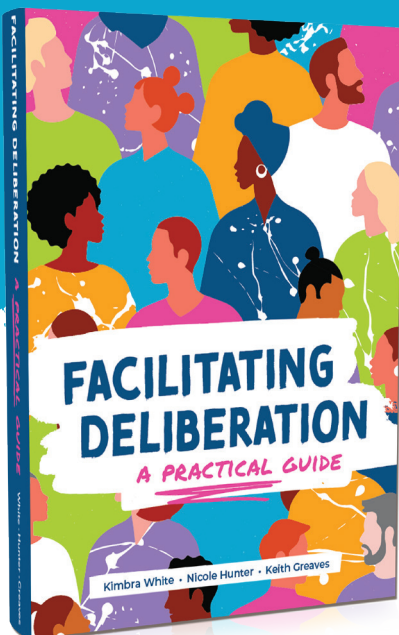


BIG BOOK LAUNCH

INSIGHTS, REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS FROM SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS

On 28 July 2022, MosaicLab hosted an online event to launch the book **Facilitating Deliberation - A Practical Guide**, written by the directors Kimbra White, Nicole Hunter and Keith Greaves. The event featured guest speakers and participants from 12 countries, representing a diverse mix of professional practitioners, past participants, academics, leaders and decision-makers from around the world.



Key speakers and contributors at the event were:

- ♦ **Kimbra White** - Co-Founder and Director, MosaicLab
- ♦ **Nicole Hunter** - Co-Founder and Director, MosaicLab
- ♦ **Keith Greaves** - Co-Founder and Director, MosaicLab
- ♦ **Art O'Leary** - Secretary General, Electoral Commission of Ireland, Citizens' Assemblies; Previously Secretary General to the President and Secretary to the Constitutional Convention
- ♦ **Hon Jay Weatherill, AO** - CEO, Thrive by Five, Minderoo Foundation; Former Premier of South Australia
- ♦ **Dr Brett Hennig** - Co-Founder and Co-Director, Sortition Foundation
- ♦ **Dr Carolyn Hendriks** - Professor, The Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
- ♦ **Iain Walker** - Executive Director, The newDemocracy Foundation
- ♦ **Dr Janette Hartz-Karp** - Emeritus Professor, Curtin University; Co-Director, Empowering Participation
- ♦ **Dr Lucy Parry** - Research Associate, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance University of Canberra; Research Associate, Participedia
- ♦ **Dr Lyn Carson** - Research Director, The newDemocracy Foundation
- ♦ **Dr Oliver Escobar** - Senior Lecturer in Public Policy, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh; Academic lead on Democratic Innovation, Edinburgh Futures Institute

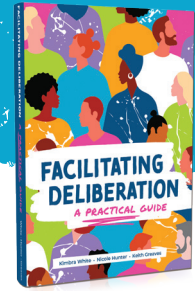
This free resource reflects the discussions held and highlights some examples of the ideas, advice and learnings the speakers and participants shared on the night.





INSIGHTS, REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS

Participants and speakers shared some of their big ideas and key takeaways from the night.



INTEGRITY AND INCLUSION

- “ Be open to ‘shift’ - be transparent, trust is important, be flexible with your agenda, experts in the room can be anyone.
- “ Totally agree, we need to have a broader view of ‘expertise’.
- “ Bringing in more voices, as decision-making is not all up to politicians. It's a collective process.
- “ (On facilitating multilingual deliberations) Interpreters (who are well briefed), slow it down and check in regularly... plus loads more. City of Yarra Vision 2021 is an example.
- “ I'm aware of interpreters being used to support participants. Problem is that often people with need for language support simply exclude themselves as they think they won't be able to participate.

DESIGN AND QUALITY

- “ A good process should allow for a minority report; best of all, the process should work to support the participants to reach agreement about what the nature of their disagreement is and what needs to happen next to try to resolve it.
- “ Also (the process should) identify areas of agreement and those of disagreement. For many deliberative mini-publics, there are multiple components of their recommendations and so, some have a high level of agreement and others have a lower level of agreement = disagreement.
- “ I have seen a huge range of quality in some of the national and local dialogues I have been involved in. It's a dilemma sometimes to know whether to agree to help out (and influence from the inside) or refuse to support a project that could inadvertently promote bad practice.

TACKLING THE TOUGH ISSUES

- “ Citizens' assemblies are a way of getting hard jobs done (Art O'Leary) – love that!
- “ It would be good to also have citizen juries created to address issues that citizens believe are important not just issues politicians want help with.



The people that got their golden ticket, as it were, to participate in the citizens' jury were just so grateful to be asked. They took the responsibility so seriously and it was quite heart-warming to see the conscientious way in which citizens went about their task on behalf of other citizens.

- Hon. Jay Weatherill, AO



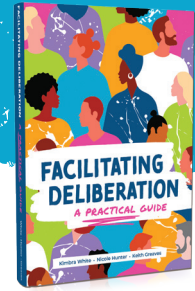
Citizens' assemblies are a way to get hard jobs done... they have transformed the way that Irish people live their lives.

- Art O'Leary



A MODEL FOR DEMOCRACY

- “ *Helps politicians move from ‘announce and defend’ to ‘debate and decide’ (Jay Weatherill).*
- “ *Mass opinion into public policy. Love the thought.*
- “ *In my opinion, a stratified mini-public is more representative than a ‘representative democracy’ electoral system.*


IMPACTS AND MEASURING THE OUTCOMES

- “ *Nice to hear of positive outcomes (concrete ones) from deliberative practice (citizen assemblies).*
- “ *I've heard of one where the deliberative mini-public wasn't given enough time and so wouldn't ‘stand behind’ the final recommendations as they didn't feel they knew enough to make those recommendations.*
- “ *If you look through the Sciencewise case studies you'll see some (examples of mini-publics) that have had a clear and important impact, and others that have had limited or none (www.sciencewise.org.uk).*
- “ *The ‘Burgerkabinet’ in the city of Ghent in Belgium; started with too many participants (large dropout), could not include young people, wrote too many recommendations, had no clear mandate.*
- “ *I assume fail in this case (could mean) any one mini-public that didn't meet some standard of influence, representation or deliberativeness right?*
- “ *(It) depends on how success and failure are defined, and what the purpose and expectations were for the different actors involved. I can think of many where some aspects didn't work in different ways. Would love to see more examples of these in research publications!*



Every one of these deliberations that we facilitated have taken our breath away in terms of the capacity of everyday people to create sound recommendations, the trust that builds between sponsoring organisations and their communities, and the transformation that can occur for those everyday people, our deliberators.

- Kimbra White

INFLUENCING DECISIONS

- “ *If there are experts from various perspectives, and participants are also able to identify the experts they want to hear from as well as experts being selected by organisers, this minimises the potential for rigging.*
- “ *Possibly, (a decision can be influenced) if there is excessive control over which experts/viewpoints are presented to the participants.*
- “ *It's important to have a balanced oversight group to oversee the whole process, to at least comment on it, and better, sign it off. And this should include selecting the experts. I've been struck by how some Australian processes provide time for participants to identify experts they'd like to hear from. I'm not aware of this been done in the UK. I also suspect that a well constituted process would rebel against a biased set of experts.*



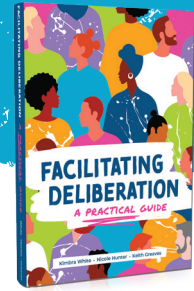
It astonishes me that what was supposed to be a six-month initiative, at which point I was happily going to go back to do my real job, that 10 years later I'm still talking about it.

- Art O'Leary



REPRESENTATION AND REFLECTING COMMUNITY

- “ The membership of the assembly must look like the people in the country/community.
- “ I like to think of mini-publics as reflective rather than representative as I think that latter term can get confused with representative democracy. It is important to think about what you want the participants to reflect – demographics, discourses, values etc.


LIMITATIONS OF CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES

- “ I'd say none, the main limit isn't the complexity of the topic, but the extent to which the political classes will open up to the public.



We have the unedifying but really pleasing spectacle at the moment of the political system fighting amongst each other in relation to which issue gets sent to a citizens' assembly next.

- Art O'Leary


LEARNINGS

Participants were invited to share something they learned at the event:



I can safely say that deliberative democracy has not only assisted me in my career, it has probably made my career.

- Hon. Jay Weatherill, AO



We have to translate mass opinion into public judgement, and you do that through a process of deliberation.

- Hon. Jay Weatherill, AO

- “ There is so much interest in ethics.
- “ The membership of the engagement must reflect the community/country.
- “ Don't confuse representative processes with deliberative processes.
- “ The importance of stratification.
- “ Something I've wondered: the notion of legitimacy?
- “ Diversity and bias is an important mix.
- “ There is much more to learn.
- “ All the people working and researching in this space are fab!
- “ Ask participants of mini-publics how they would like to connect with the wider public.
- “ The work continues.

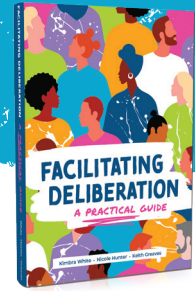




INSPIRATION

Participants thought about what they had heard and shared what had inspired them most:

- “ I have a feeling that the first country to widely institutionalise deliberation will surge ahead and quickly become a role model for all other countries.
- “ There are many people from different experiences and places!
- “ There is untapped power in people everywhere! Nice reminder tonight.
- “ Citizens' Assemblies are being realised by the people to be integral to getting hard things done.
- “ Difference can become inclusion.
- “ Surprised every time how large and international the deliberative democracy community is.
- “ The community of others who practice and/or believe.
- “ Brett Hennig sharing about the cross-fertilisation of DD around the world e.g. in Belgium flowing over to France, and so on.
- “ People are committed to making change.



The greatest resource we have as a community is the common-sense judgment of ordinary everyday citizens.

- Hon. Jay Weatherill, AO



WHERE TO NEXT

Participants shared personal actions for taking the work forward:

- “ Read the book!
- “ Use the skills more often – be courageous!
- “ Find out about New Democracy!
- “ Keep it up.
- “ Consider deliberation through a decolonising lens.
- “ Lobby for this in my local area.
- “ Showing up for work tomorrow...and the next day... and the next day.



FINAL MESSAGES

- “ Great to be here to celebrate the launch of this wonderful resource! Thanks to everyone who put it together – a great contribution to this growing community of practice across the world.
- “ Thank you to all the writers and contributors for your generosity. We love what you have done and can't wait to see where it takes humanity.
- “ Great event. Real demonstration of what is possible online!
- “ Congratulations MosaicLab team and what an awesome collection of people here tonight.

