International Association for Public Participation AUSTRALASIA

IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

Developed by the International Association for Public Participation

INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:
We will keep You informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:
• Fact sheets • Web Sites • Open houses	• Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Public meetings	• Workshops • Deliberate polling	• Citizen Advisory Committees • Consensus building • Participatory decision-making	• Citizen juries • Ballots • Delegated decisions

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FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) was founded to protect the integrity of public participation processes. It is for people who advocate for, implement and/or participate in public decision-making processes. IAP2's focus on practical tools and best practices has made it the primary resource for developing public participation processes. The term 'Public Participation' may also be referred to as 'community engagement', 'stakeholder engagement','community consultation', 'public involvement' and 'public consultation'

IAP2 developed three products that form the foundations for public participation processes. Decision makers and participants find these products both practical and meaningful:

The IAP2 Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation

The IAP2 Code of Ethics for Public Participation Practitioners

The IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

IAP2's Core Values describe the expectations of citizens in democratic societies when asked to participate in public decision-making processes. Processes with these core values in mind have been shown to be the most successful and respected.

IAP2's Code of Ethics describes the kinds of actions necessary to promote effective public participation processes that have integrity and legitimacy.

IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum clearly shows that differing levels of participation are legitimate, depending on the goals, time frames, resources and levels of concern or interest in the decision to be made. Most important, however, is the realisation that each participation level involves a promise made to the public. If the promise is not defined, and is understood differently by the participants and the decision maker, the process will result in dissatisfaction and/or disillusionment. At all public participation levels, promises should be clear – and promises should be kept.

These three products form the foundation for effectively practising public participation. While they are copyrighted by IAP2, we encourage organisations to adopt and incorporate these products into their processes. We also encourage organisations to reproduce the material for their use and where the material is used, acknowledge the IAP2 source.

For more information visit us at www.iap2.org.au

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IAP2 Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation

As an international leader in public participation, IAP2 has developed the IAP2 Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation for use in developing and implementing public participation processes.

These core values were developed over two years with broad international input to identify those aspects of public participation that cross national, cultural and religious boundaries. The purpose of these core values is to help make better decisions which reflect the interests and concerns of potentially affected people and entities.

IAP2 Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation

1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decsion.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

IAP2 Code of Ethics for Public Participation Practitioners

The International Association of Public Participation's IAP2 Code of Ethics for Public Participation Practitioners supports and reflects IAP2 Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation.

The IAP2 Core Values define the expectations as aspirations of the public participation process. The IAP2 Code of Ethics addresses the actions of practitioners.

As members of IAP2, we recognise the importance of a Code of Ethics, which guides the actions of those who advocate including all affected parties in public decision-making processes. To fully discharge our duties as public participation practitioners, we define terms used explicitly throughout our Code of Ethics.

We define stakeholders as any individual, group of individuals, organisation or political entity with a stake in the outcome of a decision. We define the public as those stakeholders who are not part of the decision-making entity or entities. We define public participation as any process that involves the public in problem-solving or decision-making and that uses public input to make better decisions.

The IAP2 Code of Ethics is a set of principles which guide us in our practice of enhancing the integrity of the public participation process. As practitioners we hold ourselves accountable for these principles and strive to hold all participants to the same standards.

IAP2 Code of Ethics for Public Participation Practitioners

1. Purpose. We support public participation as a process to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all affected stakeholders and meet the needs of the decision-making body.
2. Role of Practitioner. We will enhance the public's participation in the decision-making process and assist decision makers in being responsive to the public's concerns and suggestions.
3. Trust. We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process among all the participants.
4. Defining the Public's Role. We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision-making process.
5. Openness. We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public's understanding and evaluation of a decision.
6. Access to the Process. We will ensure that stakeholders have fair and equal access to the public participation process and the opportunity to influence decisions.
7. Respect for Communities. We will avoid strategies that risk polarising community interest or that appear to "divide and conquer".
8. Advocacy. We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for a particular interest, party or project outcome.
9. Commitments. We will ensure that all commitments made to the public, including those by the decision maker, are in good faith.
10. Support of the Practice. We will mentor new practitioners in the field and educate decision makers and the public about the value and use of public participation.