

People Connecting

An Innovative Approach to Community Participation & Inclusion



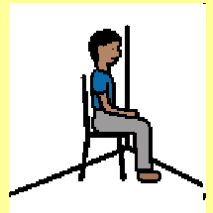
Parallel Workshop 2 – How can we help people have their say?

Brian Donohoe & Cabríní de Barra

Tuesday 23 October 2007

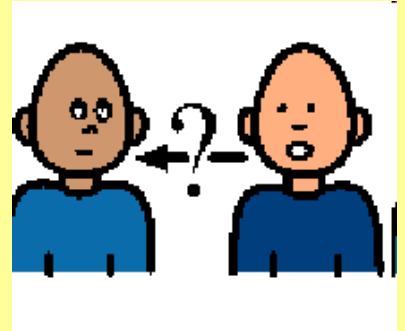
Background

- We have seen important changes in how services are provided for people with intellectual disability
- But these changes don't guarantee that people have real contact or involvement with their own community
- So we need to find ways to enable people to participate in the life of their own community
- The National Federation set up the Community Participation & Inclusion Sub-Committee



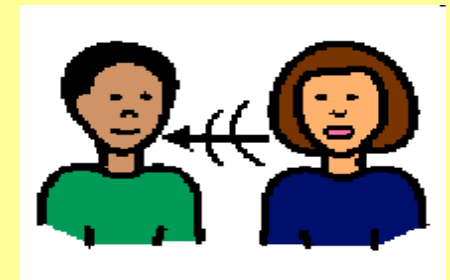
Walking the Walk!

- As a Sub-committee, we decided to ask people who use our services about the barriers & solutions to community participation
- We held a Consultative Workshop
- We invited people who use our services to attend & have their say
- People talked about their experience in the community where they lived and worked



The Workshop

- For many people it was the first time they were asked their opinion
- Everyone got a chance to speak and share their experiences
- People shared their past, current and future thoughts, hopes and fears





People Connecting

Findings from 26th June 2006 Consultative Workshop on the Barriers,
Incentives and Solutions to Community Participation & Inclusion of
People with Intellectual Disability

together with

Recommendations to the Board of the National Federation



Important Points (1)

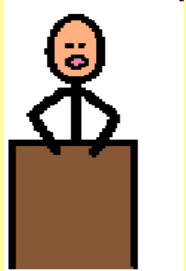
Accessible Information

- We want information that's easy to read & understand



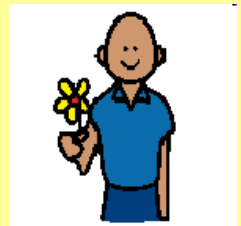
Advocacy

- We would like to be able to speak for ourselves or have someone to support us to do this



Attitudes

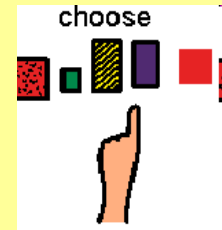
- We would like help to change the negative attitudes of people around us towards people with a disability



Important Points (2)

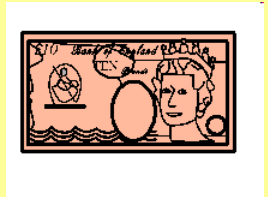
Choice

- We would like to be able to live independently & work where we want within our own community



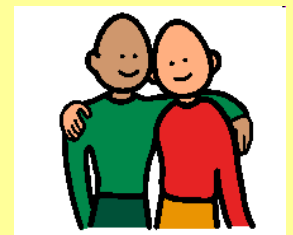
Disability Allowance

- We would like to get more money from the Department of Social & Family Affairs so that we can do the things we want to do



Friendship

- We would like to be able to meet & spend time with friends who share common interests



Important Points (3)

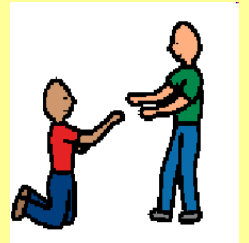
Independence

- We would like to be able to live and work in the place of our choice without depending on family or others on a daily basis



Support

- We would like to be able to get extra help in situations that would be difficult for us on our own



Transport

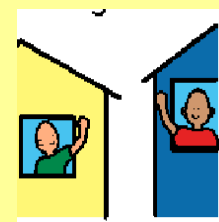
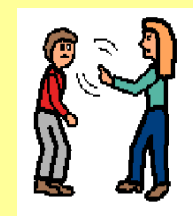
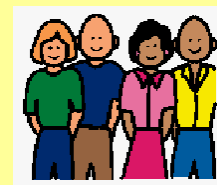
- We would like to have transport available to us, especially in rural areas, so that we are not isolated from everyone



Having our say

Quotes

- *"I can't go out with friends because I don't live beside or near them"*
- *"Staff need to trust us to come back safely if you go out on your own"*
- *"We need to educate people to understand that people with disabilities can live and work in the community, the same as everyone else"*
- *"My family won't let me go out anywhere"*
- *"The world is a different place now so it's difficult to get to know your neighbours & feel part of the community"*



And finally

- So what can you do to foster change?
- What can you do to:

empower & enable people with intellectual disability

to participate in a meaningful way

and to be truly integrated and included

in the life of their local community?

