

**National Federation of Voluntary Bodies
Community Participation & Inclusion Sub-Committee**



presentation to

**Research Sub-Committee
Monday, 31 March 2008**

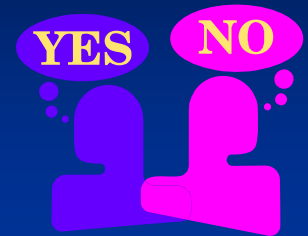
A little bit about our group

- The Board of the Federation set up this group in July 2005
- The overall aim of our group is to look at how people who avail of intellectual disability services can live full active lives, of their own choice, within their own communities. And to look at the best ways of making this happen.
- Our group is made up of people who avail of services and staff who provide services.
- The opinions of each member of the group are respected and valued.



Consultative Workshop

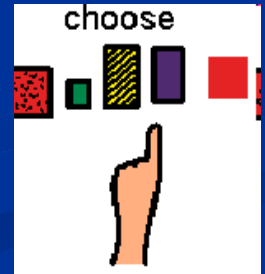
- We decided first to look at the barriers and solutions to people being involved in their own community
- We organised a workshop where people who avail of services could give us their views and opinions
- People had different types of life experiences – some people lived with their family, some lived in a residential place, some shared a home with a friend



Important points that people made at the workshop

Independence & Choice

- We would like to be able to live and work in the place of our choice
- We would like to make our own decisions
- We would like you to support us to take risks like everybody else



Friendship

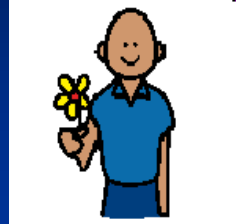
- We would like to be able to meet and spend time with friends who share common interests



More Important Points

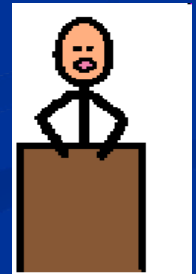
Attitudes

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



Advocacy / Self-Advocacy

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



Accessible Information

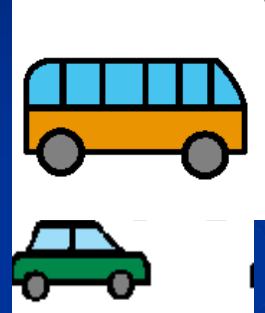
- We would like information that's easy to read and understand



More Important Points

Transport

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



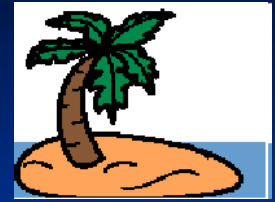
Disability Allowance

- 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



Quotes from the Workshop

- *“I can’t go out with friends because I don’t live beside or near them”*



- *“We need to educate people to understand that people with disabilities can live and work in the community, the same as everyone else”*



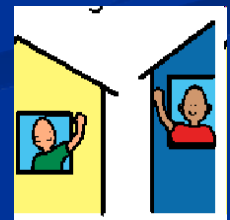
- *“My family won’t let me go out anywhere”*



- *“Staff need to trust us to come back safely if you go out on your own”*

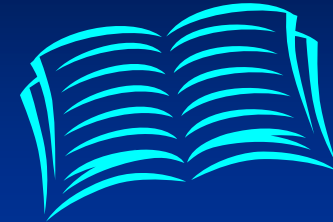


- *“The world is a different place now so it’s difficult to get to know your neighbours and feel part of the community”*

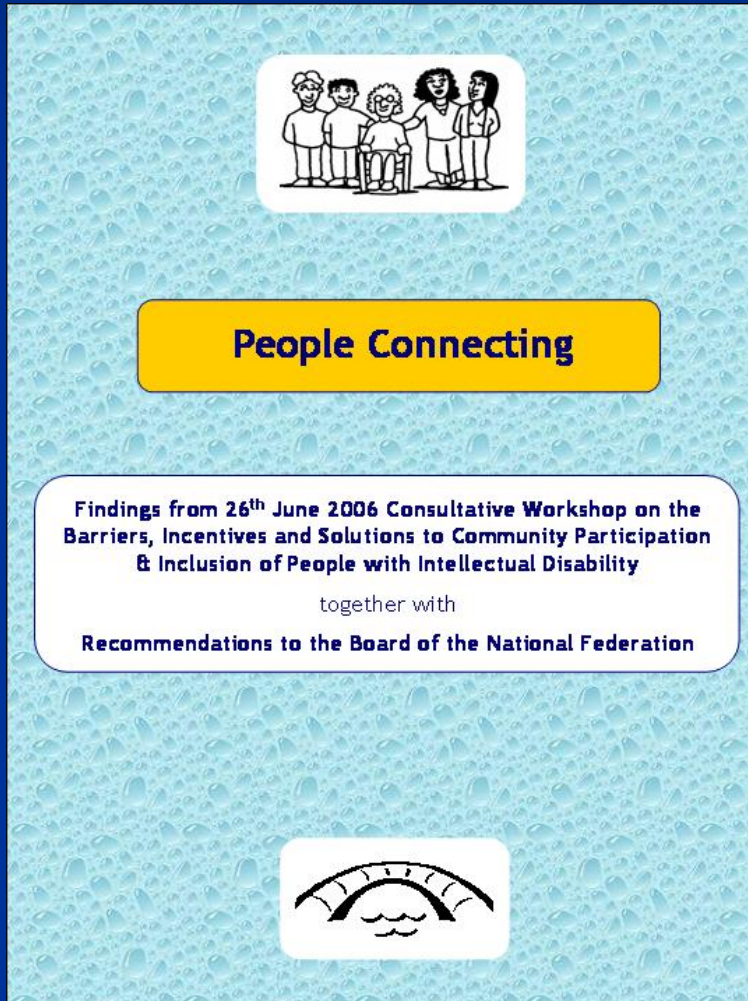


After the Workshop

- We put down in writing exactly what was said at the workshop
- To support the outcomes from the workshop, we made recommendations to the Board of the National Federation in April 2007.
- The Board were very interested in hearing what people said at the workshop and our group's recommendations

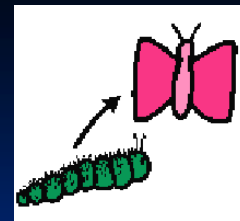


**Everything that was said at the Workshop
and the group's recommendations to the Board
are included in this document "*People Connecting*"**



We have a
copy here for
everyone

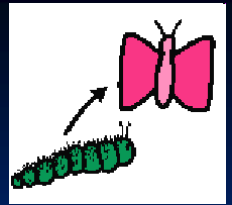
What can the National Federation do in its Research Strategy to foster change for people who avail of disability services



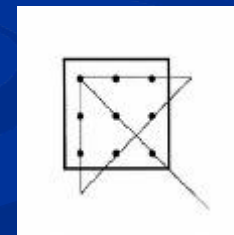
- Examine national and international evidence based best practice that will enable people who avail of services to live full active lives, of their own choice, in their own communities:
 - Examine ways of fostering and maintaining good community connections and social networks so that people can develop real, meaningful, long lasting and freely chosen relationships
 - Develop short and long-term strategies to support people to live, work and spend time in ordinary community settings
 - Develop strategies to support people's right to independence and the right to make their own decisions, including managing their own money



Contd



- Develop strategies to raise awareness and challenge assumptions of disability in communities, within services and in the media
- Look at how “day services” are traditionally provided and examine ways of providing more holistic person centred services e.g. outside of the 9 to 5 model.
- Examine best practice in managing change to facilitate the smooth transition of change within organisations



Nothing About Us Without Us



We would like to be involved in some of this research



On behalf of all the people involved in the Community Participation & Inclusion Sub-Committee I would like to:

- Thank you for inviting us here today
- Thank you for giving us a chance to have our say and for listening to our opinions

and finally, we would like to wish you well with the development of the National Federation Research Strategy