

Notes from “Celebrating Groups” activity that occurred  
 at NCC AGM 12 October 2011.  
 Session facilitated by Tina Lathouras

Green Group

Think about the different kinds of groups that exist in community (such as groups in a particular location, or groups of people with shared interests or identities).

*Q: What would you say are the advantages of being a member of a group for the participants?*

Try to generate a long list.

*Q: Are some things on the list more significant than others? Why?*

(Underlined words and bolded points are attempts to replicate the emphasis put on the original paper version by the group)

- Power of numbers
- **To support each other – trust one another**
- **To motivate each other**
- **Share information**
- **Get organised – plan to act**
- **To have untied voice on issues**
- **Promote their interest/s**
- **Sharing a common interest/s or goal/s**
- **Work together on certain action eg. lobbying**
- **Social interactions feeling connected**
- **Formation of friendships & relationships**
- **Altruism! Inspiration! Encouragement!**
- To minimise costs
- To help people less fortunate
- To raise funds
- To have fun
- To enjoy each others company
- Solidarity – feel strengthened
- To have a sense of belonging
- To learn from each other and experts
- To teach
- To use the skills that you have
- To share resources
- Develop skills and practice
- To restore, preserve, archive, research
- Share passion for atopic
- **Collective goals of Individual & Group**

- To give a sense of self-worth and purpose
- To share ideas and visions
- To have a defined mission
- Pass knowledge from generation to generation
- To institutionalise knowledge
- To build community
- To network with other groups
- To cooperate together
- To share cultures – food & art
- To apply for grant funding for the group and special projects
- To strive for goal and achieve it/them
- To develop a sense of pride
- To facilitate brainstorming and sharing
- To save money eg bulk buying group
- To tithe money eg churches
- Eat together
- To collect things to send to other groups in need eg charities
- To be on call to help eg in case of emergencies

<p><b>Orange Group</b></p> <p>Think about the different kinds of groups that exist in community (such as groups in a particular location, or groups of people with shared interests or identities).</p> <p><i>Q: What would you say are the advantages of these kinds of groups for the community as a whole? Try to generate a long list.</i></p> <p><i>Q: Are some things on the list more significant than others? Why? (the <b>bolded points</b> are the more significant one's that the group chose)</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Entertainment</li> <li>○ Brainstorming – sharing ideas</li> <li>○ Enabling</li> <li>○ Socialisation / individual and community growth</li> <li>○ Mental wellbeing</li> <li>○ <b>Healthy &amp; Fit communication</b></li> <li>○ <b>Skill building</b></li> <li>○ Encourages “outward” looking rather than “inward” looking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shared interest</li> <li>○ <b>Community Acceptance</b></li> <li>○ Rejuvenates</li> <li>○ <b>Belonging</b></li> <li>○ Combined action</li> <li>○ Charity</li> <li>○ Fundraising</li> <li>○ Enables an increase in direct action around – safety, shelter, personal facilities / hygiene, connection</li> <li>○ <b>Building community &amp; connection</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>Pink Group</b></p> <p>The saying, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts” says why groups in a community are important. Discuss your thoughts about the saying.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teamwork</li> <li>○ “from little things big things grow</li> <li>○ People all think differently</li> <li>○ Not alone – strength – support</li> </ul> <p><i>Q1: What are the ways group leaders and group members can make groups more inclusive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Appropriate eg respect for cultural groups</li> <li>○ establishing the foundations</li> <li>○ Shared understanding and purpose of group</li> </ul>	<p><i>Q2: Would there be times when ‘inclusion’ isn’t a goal of a group?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specific groups eg. mums group, domestic violence</li> </ul>

*Gold group*

*Q: What makes for effective groups? Q: What kills a group Try to generate two long lists.  
Q: Are some things on the list more significant than others? Why?  
(the **bolded points** are the more significant one's that the group chose)*

*Q: What makes for effective groups*

- **Members participating**
- Compatibility
- Availability
- Connection / meaningful
- **Structure / agenda**
- **Passion / engagement**
- **Communication**
- Acceptance
- Empathise
- Respect
- Food / refreshments
- Conversation
- **Common goal**
- Humour
- Commitment
- Accessible meeting place
- Environment
- Atmosphere
- Identity/ name
- Unity
- Diversity
- Brainstorming
- Equality
- Social interaction
- Activities
- Purpose
- Motivation
- Contributing
- Membership
- Progressing
- Keeping up with the times
- **Resources**
- **Timetables**

*Q: What kills a group*

- Out of control freak
- Conflict back stabbing
- **No commitment**
- **Division**
- Power plays
- **Hidden agendas**
- **Losing focus of purpose**
- **Too many rules**
- Emotions
- No agenda
- No finances / lack of funds
- Despair
- Boredom
- **Not meeting expectations**
- **No motivation**
- Not active
- Resentment
- **Rage / anger**
- **No structure**
- Burn outs
- **Lack of membership**
- No progression
- Not keeping up with the times
- **Apathetic**
- Prestige
- Lack of resources
- Lack of timetables

*Rainbow Group???*

Conflict is an inevitable part of group work.

*Q: Do you agree or disagree?*

*Q: Why do you agree or disagree? Make suggestions about dealing with conflict in groups*

*Q: Are there some basic principles about how to go about managing conflict.*

*Q: Are there things you should do or shouldn't do?*

*Q: Do you agree or disagree?*

- **Yes**

*Q: Why do you agree or disagree?*

- Conflict is part of normal group development / progression
- Opportunity to listen to differences / similarities

*Q: Are there some basic principles about how to go about managing conflict.*

- Work out "norms" in group "agreed behaviors"
- Debrief with participants in group who have conflict

*Q: Are there some basic principles about how to go about managing conflict.*

- Allow time to listen and talk
- "agreed behaviors" adhered to
- Identify underlying issues
- Look outside the box
- Be open to other opinions
- Respect the person even when you disagree with their idea / opinion
- Focus on main goal
- Have a mission statement to always refer back to
- Hearing what people are saying – respect their time when voicing their opinion
- Group work not about "right or wrong" rather accomplishing common ground – 'it's not personal if someone doesn't agree with you'