



Friends, Victorians, Citizens: Lend Me Your Views


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Citizens' Juries

- Workshop on how to run CJs tomorrow at 2pm
 - More on CJs at “Citizens’ Juries” at www.gavinmooney.com
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Nature of Society

- Very individualistic
 - Market values
 - Reduced to consumers
 - Largely powerless as citizens
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Hence...

- Lack of concern for social fairness/equity
- Lack of compassion
- Loss of sense of community




Societal Issues I

- Health care just one institution in a society
- Social values influence society in general
- How can we build a society more concerned about population health?
- How can we build a more compassionate, health-orientated society?




Societal Issues II

- How can we get traction on the social determinants of health?
 - How can we move away from the (often) victim blaming of health promotion?
 - How can we ensure that the social determinants of health are social?
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Question of Power

- Who holds – and who should hold - the power over resource allocation in health care?
- Who holds – and who should hold - the power over resource allocation in the social determinants of health?



**Whose Values in Health and
Health Care?**

Whose health is it anyway?



**Whose health service is it
anyway?**



**Who better than
the people to determine health
and health service values?**



Who is the community?

Citizens not consumers



Why trust citizens?

- Citizens are thick
- Citizens don't care
- Citizens are ill-informed
- Citizens are biased
- Citizens just want the best
- Citizens just want machines that go ping



Previous Slide

In my experience ALL these
points are wrong



Citizens' Juries as the Community Voice

- Need to be randomly selected
- Need to be informed
- Need to be able to reflect
- Choices need to be resource constrained
- Stick to broad principles & priorities ?
- NOT decision making

Citizens and Decision Making

Tony Abbott when Health Minister sought to dismiss the usefulness of citizens' juries, arguing that they are 'no substitute for political decision-making'.

He went on: 'In the end, politicians and policy makers can't subcontract out the decision-making process.'

WA Citizens' Definition of Equity

Equal access for equal need where equality of access means that two or more groups face barriers of the same height and where the judgment of the heights is made by each group for their own group; where need is defined as capacity to benefit; and where nominally equal benefits may be weighted according to social preferences such that the benefits to more disadvantaged groups may have a higher weight attached to them than those to the better off.



Perth Jury

On equity -

**Wanted more resources for rural
and remote – not for Perth!**



South West AHS

Jury argued for

- More for disadvantaged groups especially Aboriginal (equity)
- More for prevention
- More for the mentally ill

How to pay for above?

- Close/ redesignate small hospitals and EDs



ACT Health

Big on

- Equity
- Aboriginal health
- Prevention and health promotion
- Mental illness

To pay for these –

- Close hospital beds
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Citizens' Juries

- Now worked with 10 Juries:

ALL WANT MORE EQUITY!





Most striking things from the CJs?

People care!

They care about being citizens.

They care about their social institutions.



They care about their fellow citizens.



Yet Broader Issues

What sort of society do we want to build?

Is it a technocratic society where the community becomes more and more passive?

Do we want to rebuild or build anew a sense of community, maybe even a caring community?



The Neglected Noun in Health Policy

- Compassion?
 - Equity/ fairness?
 - Sense of community?
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The biggest neglect is the question of

power



Power to the People!

Through citizens' juries – empowering people as citizens, as representatives of their communities, giving them good information so that they are *critically informed* members of their community – we can transform the institutions of health care systems and the institutions responsible for the social determinants of health into genuinely *social* institutions answerable to the community they are supposed to serve.



**Now wouldn't that shift the
power base of health care
and the social
determinants of health!**

Thank you!