



Stakeholder participation

Questions

- Who are the stakeholders? How would you describe/ characterize them?
- Where do they "live their lives"? ie. What do they do in their daily lives?
- Where do they live?
- Do they speak the same "language"? eg. English? Medical jargon?
- Is there more than one stakeholder group?
- Are there other peripheral stakeholders who could assist in developing your understanding of the primary stakeholders?

Factors that influence levels of participation include:

- Resources available
- Staff skills and confidence
- Degree of public influence on the decision
- The nature of the decision topic eg. Technical
- Issue content (what else is going on)
- Types and numbers of stakeholders
- Public concerns and levels of interest
- Participant preferences
- How well informed the public is
- Geographical compactness or dispersion of the interested public
- Availability and format of information
- Contentiousness of the issues and the level of conflict or consensus
- The history of involvement and issues in relevant communities
- The organizations credibility and past performance in the eyes of the public
- The time required and level of urgency for a decision
- Ability to follow through ie. There is no point doing a survey unless you can process the response and use the data

Planning to be inclusive:

Timing: is the timing convenient or appropriate?

Place: will the participants feel comfortable about the place or venue?

Costs: is childcare required? Should expenses be paid in some cases? Can you reassure people that they will not incur costs?

Age: should you go to meet young people, older people at schools, clubs, homes, etc. rather than expect them to come to your event?

Literacy and formality: will people be put off by the style of meeting and expectation of high levels of literacy and confidence... or the tone of the material?

Culture and diversity: should literature be translated? What cultural factors might be relevant to the time and place of meetings, and the provision of refreshments?

Accessibility: is the building accessible to people with disabilities?