

# A brief overview of Citizens' Assemblies

John Garry

Member of the Advisory Support Group  
to the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**



# Citizens' Assemblies

Who takes part?

What do they do?

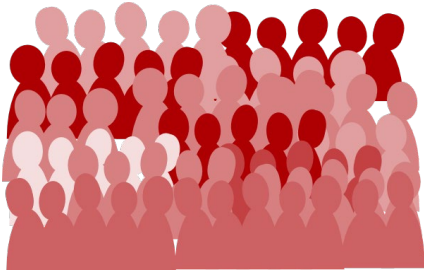
What is the outcome?

# Citizens' Assemblies

Who takes part?

What do they do?

What is the outcome?



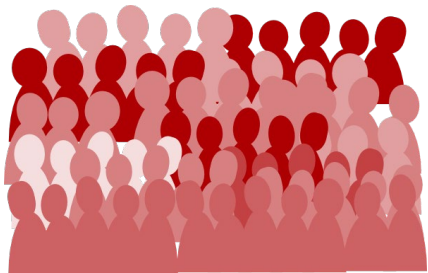
Around 100 members of the public, randomly selected

# Citizens' Assemblies

Who takes part?  
**mini-public**

What do they do?

What is the outcome?



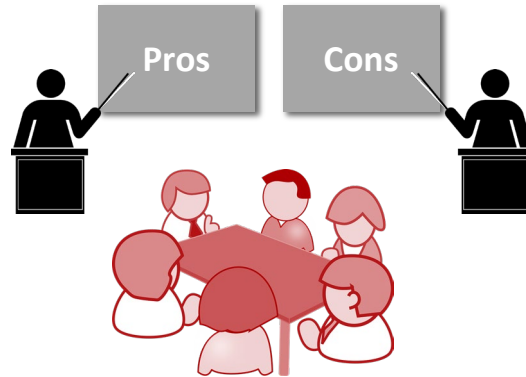
Around 100 members of the  
public, randomly selected

# Citizens' Assemblies

Who takes part?

What do they do?

What is the outcome?



Learning & discussion

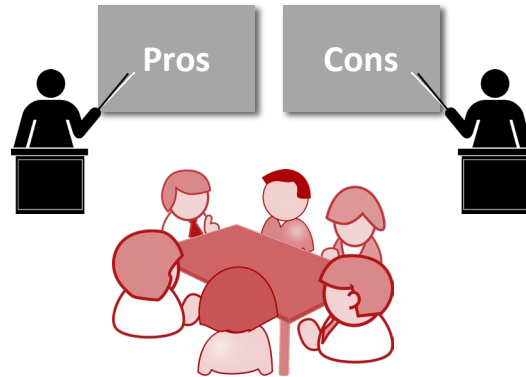
# Citizens' Assemblies

Who takes part?

What do they do?

**deliberate**

What is the outcome?

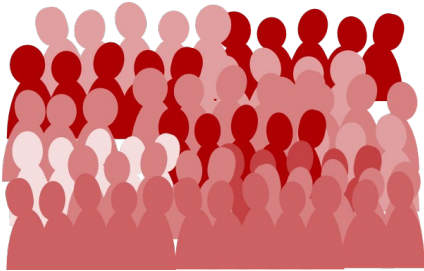


Learning & discussion

# Citizens' Assemblies

Who takes part?

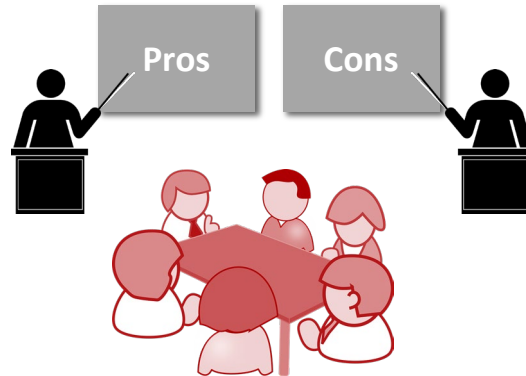
**mini-public**



Around 100 members of the public, randomly selected

What do they do?

**deliberate**



Learning & discussion

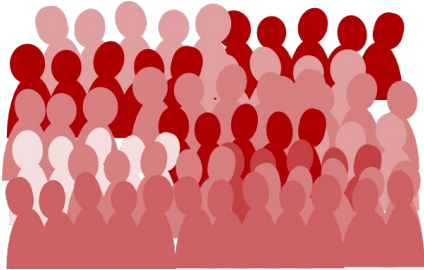
What is the outcome?

# Citizens' Assemblies

...are also known as “Deliberative Mini-Publics”

Who takes part?

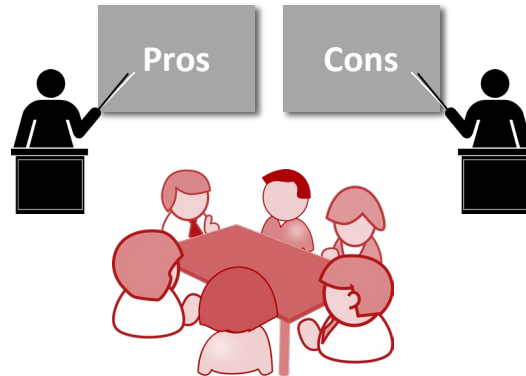
mini-public



Around 100 members of the public, randomly selected

What do they do?

deliberate



Learning & discussion

What is the outcome?

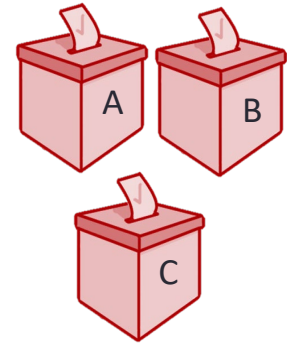


# Citizens' Assemblies

Who takes part?

What do they do?

What is the outcome?



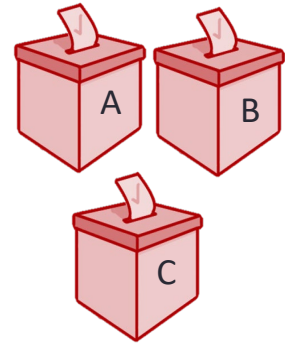
Collective decision(s)  
(usually recommendations)

# Citizens' Assemblies

Who takes part?

What do they do?

What is the outcome?  
**recommendations**



Collective decision(s)  
(usually recommendations)

# Used around the world



**Citizens' Assembly on  
Electoral Reform**  
British Columbia, Canada

Image: Participedia.net



**Climate Assembly**  
United Kingdom

Image: UK Parliament



**Citizens' Assembly**  
Republic of Ireland

Image: Participedia.net

Example of the  
Citizens' Assembly  
on Abortion

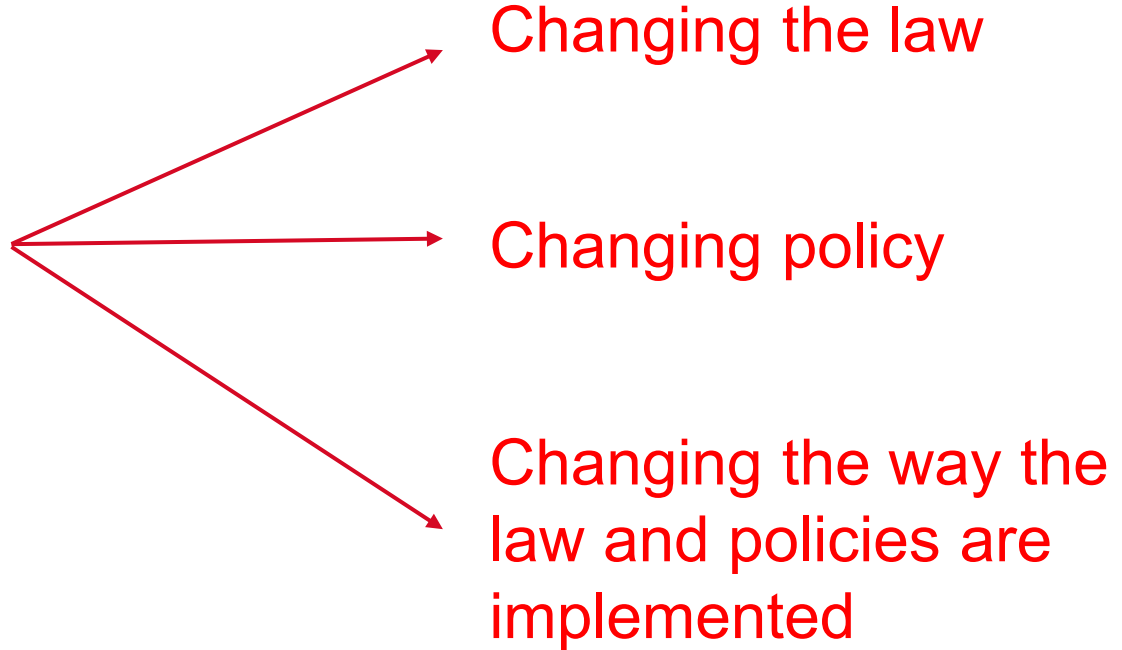
Recommendations

Changing constitution



## Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use

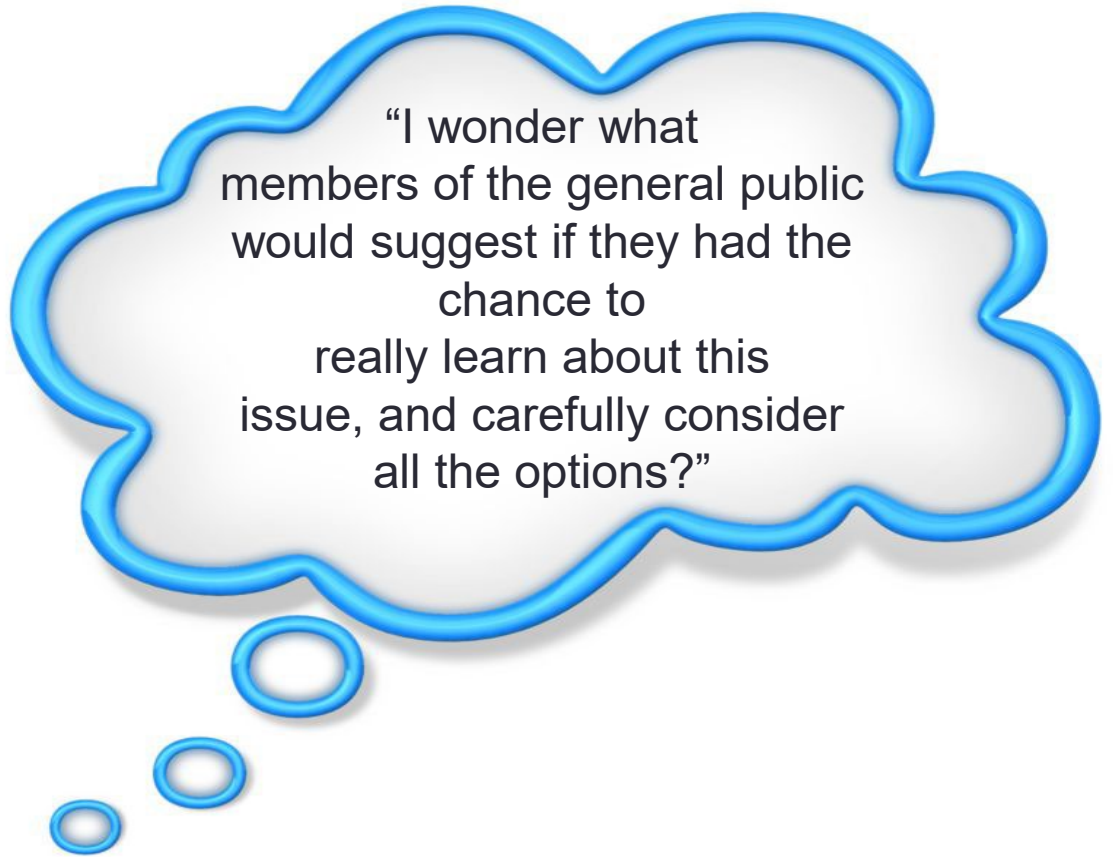
Potential  
Recommendations



# Are Citizens' Assemblies a Good Idea?

# Why?

“I wonder what members of the general public would suggest if they had the chance to really learn about this issue, and carefully consider all the options?”



Thank you!

