



Community Consultation Group: Consultation Principles

CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

- Increasing the level of transparency and increasing engagement with interested parties improves the quality of regulation by bringing to bear alternative perspectives. It helps the College make more informed decisions. Also, public consultations help to foster a transparent regulatory environment and confidence in the self-regulation model.

CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

- Members of the Community Consultation Group represent only themselves and share their opinions as individuals.
- There may be many circumstances where formal consultation is not appropriate, for example, where the measure is necessary to deal with legislated obligations or with a court judgement.
- Consultations do not have legal force and cannot prevail over statutory or mandatory requirements.
- Good consultation does not necessarily mean that the views of the stakeholders have to be accepted. The purpose of consultation is to assist in ensuring that regulatory proposals provide net benefits to the community as a whole rather than to specific or individual stakeholders.
- Consultation rarely results in a single shared opinion. The Council and committees of the College will make their own judgement about the weight to be given to the views expressed. In other words, the results of consultation are never a substitute for the democratic process and do not replace the legitimate role of elected representatives in decision-making.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

- Meetings of the Community Consultation Group shall follow good meeting practice.
- As the committee is not a decision-making body, it is not a requirement that consensus be reached on issues discussed.
- Notes are kept of all meetings of the committee. Notes of the meetings are posted on the College website.

CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

- In meetings of the group and when otherwise involved in the business and activities of the committee, members shall, to the best of their abilities:
 - o act properly, honestly and in accordance with an open and transparent process
 - o perform their functions impartially
 - o be respectful to fellow group members and College staff and not engage in unconstructive, threatening, intimidating or disorderly behaviour
 - o refrain from any form of conduct which may cause any reasonable person unwarranted offence or embarrassment