

## Report to Research Committee, The newDemocracy Foundation January 2023

### Background

The part-time role of an in-house Research Director was discussed and approved at a meeting of the Research Committee in October 2016. A mid-year report and an annual report have been prepared for the Research Committee each year since that time. This report is a report of current activities with some documentation of the past.

The following criteria were deemed essential by the Research Committee:

- (1) Fulfil requirements of research organisation with charitable status.
- (2) Undertake or commission research that is relevant to the mission of nDF (i.e. democratic reform, alternatives that restore trust among relevant political decision makers and advisors, and produce better results from a public interest perspective).

### R&D Notes

Many *R&D Notes* (53) are currently on the newDemocracy website and others are in varying stages of completion. All *R&D Notes* are critical reflections on projects, or new ideas, and provide evidence of our commitment to theorise about our practice. During the period February 2011-December 2022 there has been a total of 5,894 views of the R&D Notes webpage, and 1,078 unique downloads of various R&D Notes. The titles and authors of the current list of R&D notes on the website can be found in **Appendix 1**. R&D Notes are central to the research newsletters that are circulated and are promoted and discussed on social media.

All of these R&D Notes have proven to be an extremely useful resource for the Executive Director's advocacy activities—being viewed by people of influence. One example is a recent note—*Would the High Court allow a ban on political donations?*—which was shared immediately with the Attorney-General. These notes are also helpful for the many practitioners who are part of the growing international network. These R&D Notes are occasionally published elsewhere, including in translation. They have proven to be an integral component of the courses on Deliberative Democracy being offered by the Institute for Sustainable Futures at UTS as well as a course run by Oliver Escobar for University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Recently, David van Reybrouck alerted us to the usefulness for his students of these notes at the Hannah Arendt Center in the US.

### Podcasts

As mentioned in previous reports, the COVID pandemic led to the development and broadcasting of a podcast series, *Facilitating Public Deliberations*. This podcast is designed to offer guidance to new facilitators in order to expand the pool of those available to facilitate mini-publics. 44 interviews were recorded and released with Carson as the interviewer and Nivek Thompson as producer. The series was completed in February 2021, and is available from usual podcast outlets as well as via the newDemocracy website (under *Library*). The download figures have surprised us given their niche nature—so far there have been over 11,000 downloads. They have been heard in 30 countries (from the US to Brazil and Albania). We have had interest from Australia, Singapore, UK and Europe in using the series for training purposes. As mentioned, newDemocracy partnered with ISF to design and deliver several Master Classes on Deliberative Democracy. Along with the R&D Notes, excerpts from these podcasts are an essential component of the online materials. Podcast episodes are also being used in the MPP program at the University of Canberra. The complete list can be found in **Appendix 2**.

### Collaborations

The OECD continues to be an important collaborator because of its creation of an international network and release of influential reports that mirror nDF's principles and activities. This close link has meant that nDF's work was heavily featured in its various reports and references to nDF were highly complimentary

with regard to the quality and transparency of our work. This is exactly the type of organisation that nDF wants writing on the topic of deliberative democracy as we connect with the wider public sector.

The Research Director was the lead author for a handbook commissioned by the Westminster Fund for Democracy and released in 2021: *An introduction to deliberative democracy for members of parliament*. The interactive handbook was distributed to many developing countries.

At this point, the activities of Kyle Redman should also be incorporated in this report. In the past year, Kyle's role (Research and Project Design) has led to even further research activity by newDemocracy. Kyle has begun a role with Democracy R&D where he is the Senior Methodology Advisor on the Frontiers of Deliberative Democracy project funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. He is working on the Institutionalisation and Deliberation on Difficult Issues streams. He has also undertaken a research project to develop a democratic lottery tool that will document the wide range of different recruitment methods out there and present them together with their pros and cons on one site. He's working with Paul Gözl from MIT on this project. Kyle has been working with Aviv Oyveda to develop Aviv's concept of platform democracy including helping him produce content and develop arguments.

Our links with Europe are substantial: the Research Director was on the board of Federation for Innovation in Democracy Europe (FIDE) for its initial establishment period, an NGO which newDemocracy sponsors, and is now also on the board of Healthy Democracy in US, an NGO doing relevant and innovative work.

Collaborations with practitioners and scholars flourish. These collaborations were reinforced during attendance at annual gatherings of Democracy R&D. Unlike previous years in Madrid, Paris and Manchester, 2021 saw the first virtual annual conference in March. In 2022 several nDF staff attended the Berlin conference. Close connections have been established, as mentioned, with the OECD and also with the European Commission. The UNDEF project continues to yield interest and collaborations.

Closer to home, the Research Director has been contacting deliberative practitioners in New Zealand and drawing them into Democracy R&D, as well as being available as a presenter, online, for webinars—in particular for a NZ NGO, Trust Democracy. nDF has had considerable input into the recent local government review in New Zealand and is referenced throughout its report.

The Research Director has recently collaborated with Mosaic Lab to document a history of deliberative democracy in Australia and has also provided the preface for Mosaic Lab's recently-released *Facilitating Deliberation—A Practical Guide*.

Another task that is performed by the Research Director is review of scholars' journal articles and book proposals and manuscripts, as well as offering advice to students doing higher degrees. She recently reviewed a PhD dissertation prior to its submission. Further, Rachel Krust, based at Harvard University in 2022, is working closely with newDemocracy. Her own writing continues with a chapter recently submitted for a forthcoming edited book on citizens' assemblies, as well as a blog which is being disseminated widely.

At home, the Research Director provides oversight of deliberative designs for newDemocracy's various project initiatives. The combination of Research Director and the Research & Project Design Manager and Executive Director has led to very coherent deliberative designs—robust, workable and transferable.

The Research Director has been involved in curriculum development and all webinars that are foundational for the UTS courses which have been offered twice to date. Also, time is being spent with those advocating for a referendum based on the Uluru Statement: First National Voice. The team is led by Megan Davis.

The international network *Democracy R&D*, established by newDemocracy, now covers 41 countries, on six continents with 131 members (with approx. 200 fully engaged—some organisations have multiple members). For more information, see the network's website <https://democracyrd.org/about/>). This has been a real success for newDemocracy's research efforts—to initiate a global network and to watch it grow so successfully. This international presence serves us well, to enhance domestic authority and effectiveness. The close connection continues between the two organisations. The Research Director

speaks with the Coordinator of *Democracy R&D* each week and assumes the role of a critical ally. David Schecter, likewise, participates in newDemocracy's team meetings, providing a monthly report on the network's efforts.

The research activity continues to be rewarding, stimulating and productive.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "hyubanson".

Research Director

## APPENDIX 1

### Research and Development (R+D) Notes

<https://www.newdemocracy.com.au/research-and-development-notes/>

<b><i>What is it? Basic concepts</i></b> [10]		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author/s</b>
Should politicians deliberate alongside citizens?	2021	Lyn Carson
Why do politicians love or hate the idea of citizens' juries?	2019	Lyn Carson & David Schecter
Comparing participatory and deliberative democracy	2019	Lyn Carson & Stephen Elstub
More or less: The challenge of scale	2019	Lyn Carson
Concerns about citizens' abilities	2018	Lyn Carson
Citizens juries are not public meetings	2018	Lyn Carson
Deliberation	2017	Lyn Carson
Benefits of the jury model	2017	David Schecter
Group diversity trumps individual ability	2017	Lyn Carson
Forms of mini-publics	2017	Oliver Escobar & Stephen Elstub
<b><i>How to do it. The stages of mini-public deliberation</i></b> [13]		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author/s</b>
How much time do people need for a public deliberation?	2020	Kyle Redman & Lyn Carson
Principles of Community Participation	2019	Deloitte & newDemocracy
Framing the remit	2018	Lyn Carson et al
Constructively incorporating stakeholders in public decision-making	2018	Lyn Carson & Tyrone Reitman
Sample size for mini-publics	2017	Lyn Carson
Enhancing jurors' critical thinking capacity	2017	Lyn Carson
Importance of facilitation	2017	Lyn Carson
Choosing expert speakers	2017	Lyn Carson & David Schecter
Hearing from experts	2017	Lyn Carson
How should citizens' jury decisions be made? The role of voting	2019	Lyn Carson & David Schecter
How to write a report as a group	2020	Kyle Redman & Lyn Carson
Financial Compensation for Citizens in Mini-Publics	2020	Lyn Carson & Hans Liudger-Dienel
How to recruit participants for Citizens' Assemblies	2022	Kyle Redman & Lyn Carson
<b><i>Where has this been done before? Democratic innovations in practice</i></b> [14]		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author/s</b>
Brussels Deliberative Committee Model	2020	Jonathan Moskovic, Fionna Saintraint, Kyle Redman
Learnings from Madrid: Institutionalising deliberative democracy through its Observatory of the City	2020	Lyn Carson & Arantxa Mendiharat
Learnings from the Byron Shire Community Solutions Panel	2018	Lyn Carson & Iain Walker
Key learnings from Geelong's citizens' jury	2018	Lyn Carson
Comparing a citizens' jury with a youth jury	2018	Lyn Carson et al
Learnings from the ACT's Housing Choices Collaboration Hub	2018	Kyle Redman
The Swiss model [updated 2020]	2018	Lyn Carson & Jurg Steiner
Embedding deliberative democracy in Poland	2018	Lyn Carson & Marcin Gerwin
Integrating citizen deliberation into national decisions: Ireland's Prime Minister's Office	2017	Lyn Carson
French presidential election & sortition	2017	Gil Delannoi & Lyn Carson
Learnings from South Australia's nuclear fuel cycle jury	2017	Lyn Carson
Random seating in parliaments	2019	Alessandro Saia & Lyn Carson
Citizens' Councils: What are they & why are they so popular in Austria	2020	Rosa Zubizarreta, Andy Paice, Martha Cuffy

Learnings from the plementation of Victorian Local Government Act (2020)	2022	Lyn Carsom
<b><i>What's next? Challenges and new ideas</i></b> [16]		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author/s</b>
Would the High Court allow a ban on political donations?	2021	Wendy Hu
Mini-public deliberation in philanthropy: A new way to engage the public	2020	Patsy Kraeger & David Schecter
Towards Global Cooperation: The Case for a Deliberative Global Citizens' Assembly	2020	Michael Vlerick
Appointments to boards and committees	2019	Lyn Carson & Ron Lubensky
Informed referendums	2019	Ron Levy
Beyond mini-publics alone	2018	David Schecter & Brian Sullivan
Citizen-led constitutional change	2018	Terrill Bourcius & David Schecter
7 reasons schools should shift from election to lotteries	2018	Adam Cronkright & Simon Pek
Budgeting by jury	2017	David Schecter
Designing an online public deliberation	2020	Kyle Redman & The Democratic Society
Report on barriers to adoption of best practice policy making	2020	Matt Crocker
Why random selection is a better method for choosing independent High Court judges	2020	Pierre-Etienne Vandamme & Donald Bello Hutt
Should our electoral commissions become democracy commissions?	2022	Lyn Carson
Incorporating deliberative methods to strengthen the <i>Community Independents</i> movement	2022	Lyn Carson
A potential role for electoral commissions in deliberative engagement	2022	Kimbra White & Lyn Carson
Can we better represent people who do not vote?	2022	Nicolas Pirsoul

## APPENDIX 2

### *Facilitating Public Deliberations - podcast episodes*

<https://www.newdemocracy.com.au/category/library/podcast/>

<b>Episode no.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Interviewees</b>
44	Global public deliberations	Claudia Chwalisz
43	Reflections from a participant	Bobbi Allan
42	Deliberation and disability	Rhiann McLeod & Max Hardy
41	Online deliberation through Common Ground for Action	Kara Dillard
40	Reflecting on deliberation and valuable techniques	Kath Fisher
39	Tools and techniques	Abbie Jeffs
38	Tools and techniques	Lucy Cole-Edelstein
37	Feedback Frames in deliberative processes	Jason Diceman
36	Deliberation tools and techniques	Mosaic Lab team
35	The emotional work of deliberation	Rosa Zubizarreta
34	Wisdom Councils and Dynamic Facilitation	Jim Rough
33	Deliberation across countries and languages	Dominik Hierlemann
32	Citizens' Initiative Reviews	Linn Davis
31	Deliberation learning and empathy	Laurie Drake
30	A scientific perspective on deliberation	Chris Forman
29	Deliberation and planning	Anna Kelderman
28	Perspectives on facilitation	Scott Newton
27	New to deliberative democracy: the Madrid Observatorio	Arantxe Mendiharat
26	Learning from an experienced facilitator	Max Hardy
25	Skills of an experienced facilitator	Marcia Dwonczyk
24	Facilitation & open government	Don Lenihan
23	Long-form deliberation with new & experienced facilitators	Kaela Scott & Dominic Ward
22	Techniques for deliberation	Wendy Faulkner
21	Analysing deliberation	André Bächtiger
20	The thrill of facilitation	Kathy Jones
19	Dialogue & deliberation at system level	Simon Burall
18	Tools & techniques--ORID	Vivien Twyford
17	Online deliberation—evaluation	Dannica Fleuss
16	Online deliberation—building group cohesion (part 2)	Viv McWaters
16	Online deliberation—group cohesion (part 1)	Chad Foukes & Viv McWaters
15	Online deliberation—design questions	Susanna Haas Lyons
14	Adult learning and online deliberations	Leanne Piggott
13	Online deliberation—a case study	Emily Jenke
12	Online deliberation: opportunities and challenges	Graham Smith
11	Training facilitators	Oliver Escobar
10	Deliberative processes and democracy	Matthew Taylor
9	When to use deliberative mini-publics	Iain Walker & Nicole Hunter
8	MASS LBP's approach	Peter MacLeod
7	From large to small scale public deliberations	Janette Hartz-Karp
6	Democratic theory & British Columbia's Citizens' Assembly	Mark Warren
5	The intersection of theory & practice	John Gastil
4	Consensus Conferences	Lars Kluver
3	The history of deliberative mini-publics	John Gastil
2	Planning Cells	Hans Liudger-Dienel
1	Citizens' Juries	Ned Crosby & Pat Benn