

Evaluating ideas

Sometimes it is necessary for a group to prioritise or reach agreement on ideas gathered to move forward. Getting agreement in a group can sometimes be easy but more often than not it takes considerable discussion. In some situations a group may agree to disagree for a period before taking up the matter again at a later date.



Voting techniques

Voting can be used to get an indication of people's feelings, and is particularly useful when there are a large number of ideas to prioritise. However, voting should be treated as only one step towards decision making, rather than the final decision in itself. Voting can be followed with a reflective discussion, to consider:

- how people feel whose priorities are not among the most popular;
- whether popular options can be modified to take other ideas into account;
- Whether some of the less popular ideas can still be pursued (e.g. by a sub-group).

Other methods apart from 'everyone in favour...' or a show of hands which doesn't give people much time to think include:

- Draw up a list of ideas (using a round, brainstorm or workshop with sticky notes) and place it on a wall or table.
- People put a tick beside the idea they most prefer; or
 - Everyone is allowed three ticks to place wherever they wish (all on one idea, or spread around); or
 - Everyone is given a set number of tokens (e.g. sticky dots or beans) to distribute on their favoured options.
 - Votes are tallied and a discussion takes place on what to do next.

Please note: these resources are a compilation of our individual and collective knowledge and research. Every effort has been made to reference resources. Please notify Community Waikato should you identify any referencing omissions.