



**SACOSS**

**THE VOICE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS**

**Loud & Proud  
or  
Muffled & Murmuring**

**Simon Schrapel  
Chair**

# DEMOCRACY, POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

## Shortcoming of Existing Relationships

- Infrequent nature of elections.
- Limited choice.
- Crowded policy agenda.
- Minority voices squeezed out.

# THE NEED FOR ALTERNATIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

## Lessons from Policy Back Flips

- Role of powerful interest groups.
- Responding to threats.
- Co-ordinated/orchestrated action.
- Broad based buy-in.
- Costs of change.

# ROLE AND FUNCTION OF INTEREST GROUPS, ADVOCATES AND PEAK BODIES

- Essential elements of our democracy or self-interested lobbyists?
- Responding to market failure (market manipulation or market correction)
- Defending the credibility of the advocate.

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## ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS FOR EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE

- Inclusive participation processes.
  - A solid evidence base.
  - Constructive/solution based input.
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## **BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE INPUT**

**(it takes two to Tango)**

- The provider ‘straight jacket’.
  - Risk adverse cultures.
  - Distrust of motives.
  - Unrealistic timeframes/expectations.
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# INFORMING OR EMPOWERING

## - A World of Difference

- Being held accountable for the choice of engagement.
  - Building trust and respect.
  - Establishing clear parameters for engagement.
  - Understanding competing public interests.
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## **CURRENT PRACTICE**

### **(The Good, the Bad and the Ugly)**

- Gambling help services reconstructed.
  - National child protection framework.
  - Developing new partnerships in child protection in South Australia.
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# **Justice, Opportunity and Shared Wealth for All South Australians**

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