

Effective Representation



What does the term 'representative mean to you?

- What comes into your head when you hear the term ?
- Do you consider yourself as representing someone at this training course ? If so, who ? Is it a formal or informal role, and what is the difference?
- What responsibilities does that place on you?



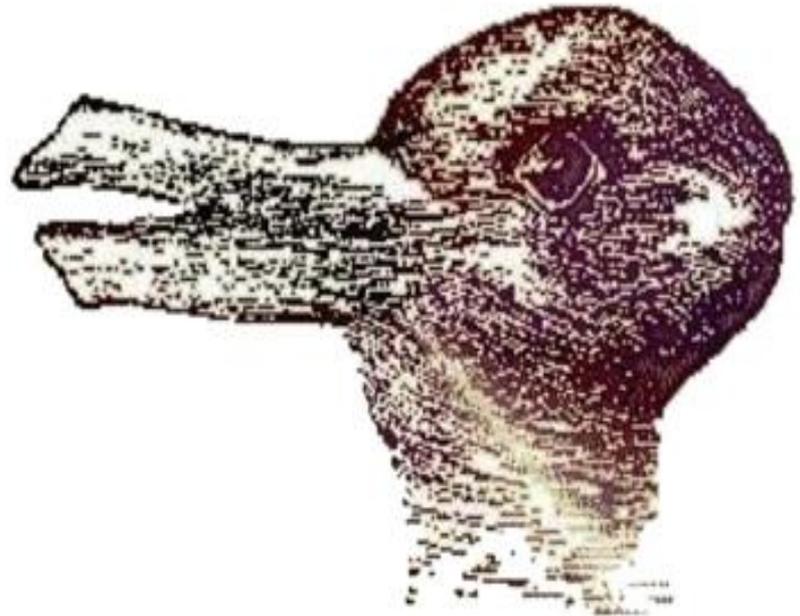
Representation

- A critical component of governance and decision-making structures at all levels of society;
- The quality and effectiveness of representation is a key determinant of how engaged people feel in those processes;

And yet.....

- People often assume the role of representative without thinking in any great detail about what it means to be an 'effective representative';
- New and serving representatives are rarely receive preparation or training in the skills, qualities and challenges involved in the role.

Representation: What do you see?



“The problem with representing any kind of reality is that it's never going to be 100% accurate. Representation always involves the construction of a version of reality, not reality itself.”

Does this have any resonance or implications for you as a representative, or for the people who represent you in different situations?



What is representation?

The process where one person or group is acting, speaking or being present on behalf of another person or group.



Examples of representatives

- Trade Union representing its members;
- Members of Parliament representing their constituencies;
- Foreign diplomats represent their Governments abroad;
- Lawyers represent their clients

Effective representation is critical to the success of any Multi Stakeholder process.

The Importance of Context

- Representation is context – specific.
- The context sets the boundaries for the representative process
- The representative will feed-in as an advocate of their constituents and/or as a subject matter expert and will feed back information, responses and requests.
- To undertake this role effectively, it is vital that all parties are clear about the context.

The Representative Relationship: 3 Metaphors

The Painting:



The Representative Relationship: 3 Metaphors

The Attorney:



The Representative Relationship: 3 Metaphors

The Actor:



Which of these models best describes your relationship with those you represent? Or is it a combination of more than one model?

What are the implications of the different models for the representative and the way they are perceived ?

“Being a representative is not about **you** getting what **you** want, it’s about **you** helping **others** to get what they want.”

Do you agree?

What are the implications of this for the role of the representative?

Selecting a representative

- Factors to consider ...



**So.....What are the skills
and qualities of an
effective representative?**