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# Community Engagement in HIA as Outlined in the Best Practices Guide on Stakeholder Engagement

Ame-Lia Tamburrini



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# Outline

- What is meant by community participation?
- The importance of engagement in HIA
- Best practices document

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# Who are stakeholders?



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# Stakeholders

Those people who:

- Are affected by the proposed change
- Have an interest in the impacts
- Have an active or passive influence on decision making process
- Have an economic or business interest in the outcome

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# Stakeholders

- Small businesses
- Service providers
- Elected officials
- Industry partners
- Public agencies
- Academic institutions
- Community residents
- Community organizations/advocacy groups



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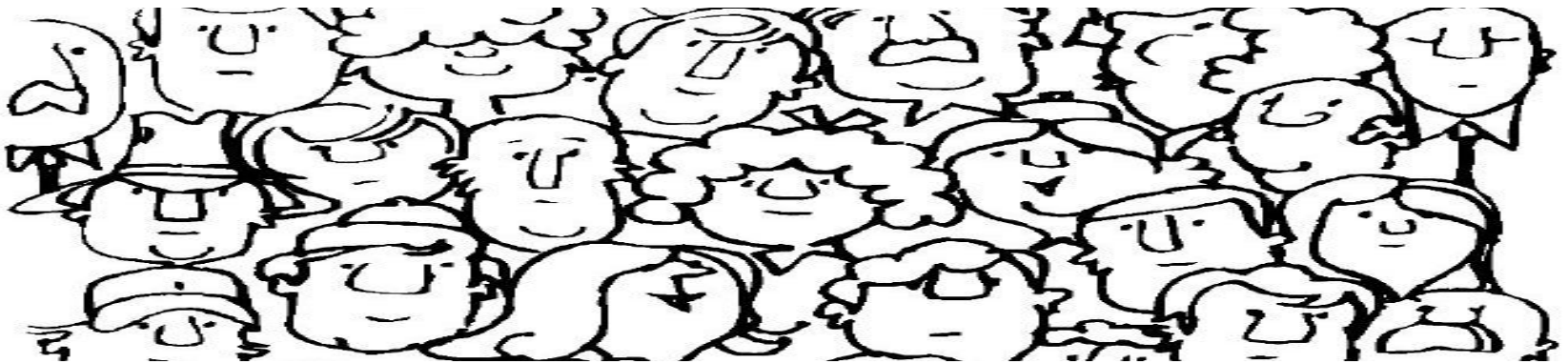
# Who is the community?



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# Benefits of Community Participation

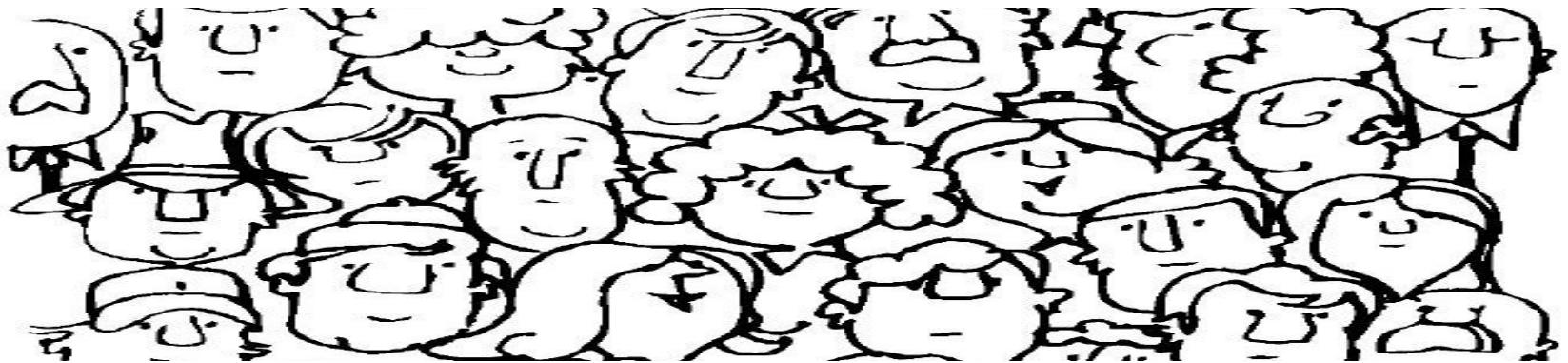
- Create political demand for HIA
- Identify local concerns
- Identify information
- Monitor decision outcomes



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# Benefits of Community Participation

- Effective disseminators of HIA results
- Hold decision-makers accountable
- Obtain buy-in of process and results





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# Importance

## HIA Values:

- Sustainable development
- Ethical use of evidence
- Comprehensive approach
- Democracy
- Equity



# **Enhancing benefits in health impact assessment through stakeholder consultation**

**Ame-Lia Tamburrini, Kim Gilhuly and Ben Harris-Roxas**

Stakeholder consultation is a key mechanism in impact assessment. It not only helps identify what benefits may occur, but the process of consultation itself may also generate positive outcomes. This paper presents three case studies of stakeholder engagement in health impact assessment (HIA) conducted in Australia and the USA, between 2004 and 2008, that led to the enhancement of positive impacts: improved relations between diverse stakeholders, development of working relationships among unlikely partners, greater acceptance of recommendations by proponents, and empowerment of community residents to become involved in political decisions that impact their lives and livelihoods. Regulatory requirements and improved guidance are suggested to improve stakeholder engagement and enhance positive outcomes in impact assessment.

Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal,  
29(3): 195-204

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# *IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum*

Developed by the International Association for Public Participation



Inform

Consult

Involve

Collaborate

Empower

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# Challenges

- Time consuming
- Community members too busy
- Representation
- Objectivity



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# Guidance and Best Practices for Engaging Stakeholders in Health Impact Assessment

## – Version 1.0 –

Prepared by:

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