Why evaluate the effectiveness of consumer, care and community participation?

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What is participation?

• The Department’s definition of participation includes:

‘when consumers, carers and community members are meaningfully involved in decision making about health policy and planning, care and treatment and the wellbeing of themselves and their community.’ (Doing it with us not for us, 2006)
Why evaluate participation?

• ‘the importance to health of people having control over their lives and meaningful participation in decision making processes’.

(Fran Baum, Prof. Public Health Flinders University, The Age, 7/08/2007)
Why evaluate participation?

- Participation is a key part of improving the quality and safety of health care.

- By reporting systematically on the evidence of the effect of participation we can encourage participation to become a part of everyday practice.
Evaluation opportunities

- By promoting the use of a Controlled Before and After study design the Evaluating Effectiveness of Participation projects can be considered for inclusion in systemic reviews coordinated through the Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group (CCCRG).

- Provide a well resourced environment for the projects through the CCCRG involvement.
Why evaluate participation?

In conclusion we are evaluating participation because:

• We value consumer, carer and community participation in decision making about health care and planning

• We need to build the evidence and put it into practice at the local level

• Using a Controlled Before and After methodology advances reporting and helps build an internationally accessible body of evidence.