

From Private Concern to Public Issue

*3 case studies of people with intellectual disabilities
coming together to create change in their and other
people's lives*

Paul O'Dea and Morrie O'Connor

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- Paul O'Dea introduces himself and Morrie and
- Acknowledges traditional owners

- A quote from the Bible:
- “Where one alone is easily overcome; two can put up resistance and a threefold cord is not easily broken”
- In your own words can you tell us what meaning you get from the above quote –

- Our presentation is about:
- People with intellectual disabilities getting together around a common problem
- It is about the strength we get from being in it with others
- In your own words what do you get from joining with others

Our case studies are:

- IYHG Housing Company
- Nundah Community Enterprise Co-op
- Talking About Bullying Group

Each story is about a group of people who all had a private concern coming together to make it a public issue.

What do you think?

The IYHG people came together about –

The Nundah Co-op people –

The Talking About Bullying group -

The stories - IYHG

- 8 people – high rents
- Came together
- Formed Housing Company where they were the –
 - Members
 - Tenants
 - Board of Directors
- Got money from Government to buy first houses
- Now raise their own money to buy houses
- Run their own housing group
- Set the policies, rules
- Pay 25% of income in rent
- Have security

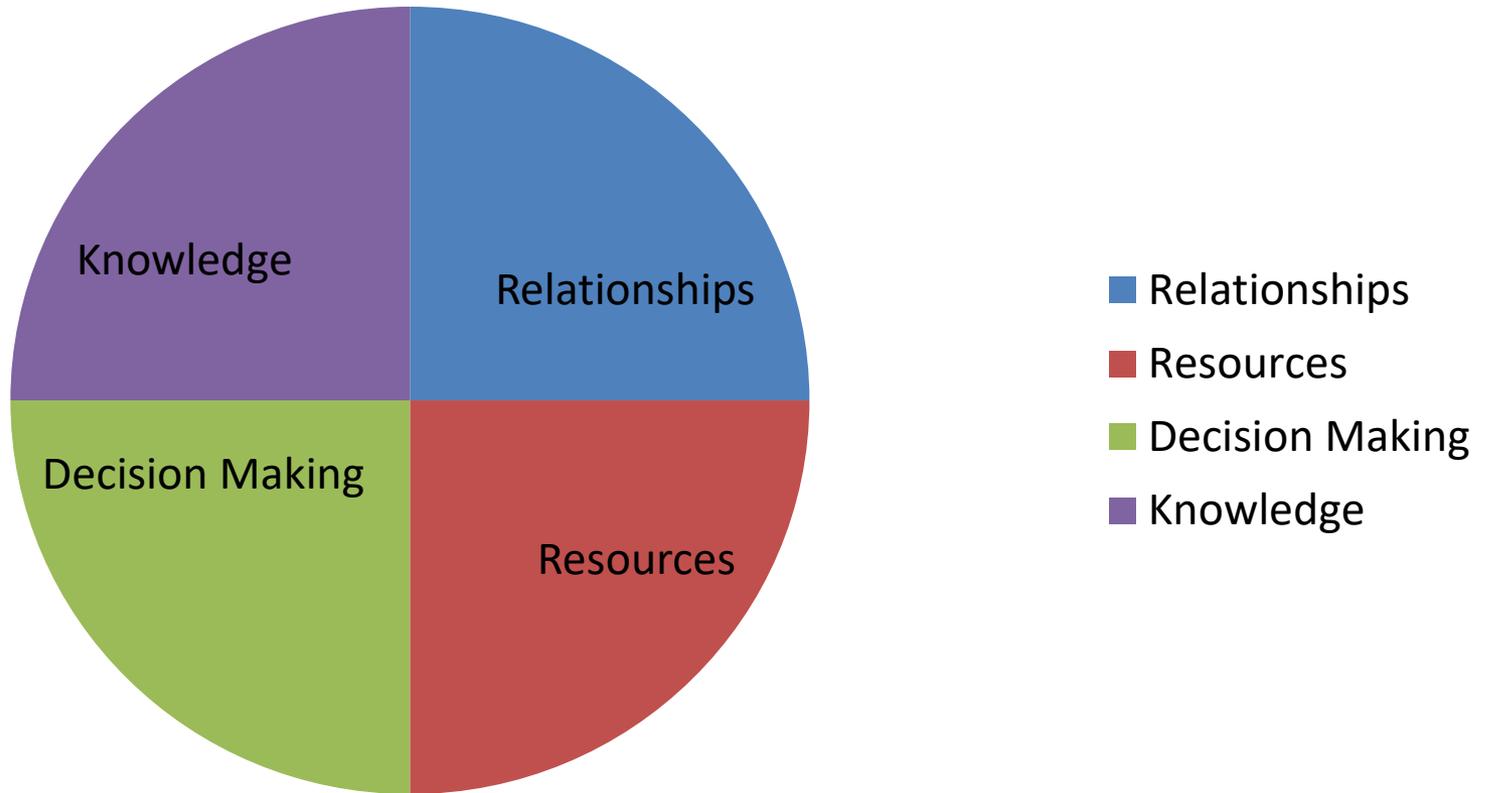
The stories - NCEC

- 6 people long term unemployed
- Came together
- Formed job club
- Became a co-operative
- Got contracts from Council, Main Roads to maintain parks
- Set up a café, catering business
- Provided employment for themselves

Talking About Bullying Group

- Everyone had experienced bullying at school
- Came together to talk about their experience
- Decided to write down their experiences
- Decided to go and share their experiences with wider community
- Went to schools, universities, clubs, groups to talk about bullying – No No No

What needs to happen to move from Private Concern to Public Issue



- First comes KNOWLEDGE and it comes from within us.
- Knowledge – Our first knowledge comes from listening to ourselves, knowing we are unhappy about something, or want something to change.
- Anyone here want to share about something they want to change - ?
- Our second knowledge comes from listening to other people and realising they are also unhappy about the same thing.
- Later we will need other knowledge.
- Knowledge about how to set up a group, get money, make decisions etc.

- Next comes RELATIONSHIPS
- Relationships – how do we move from being one to being more than one
- We invite others who have the same unhappiness, the same thing they want to change to come together
 - “Hey Sam, I heard you saying you weren’t happy about xxx, I’m not happy either and I know Jay isn’t happy either so let’s get together to talk and see what we can do” or
 - ‘If I want to do xx, I’ve heard you want to too, so let’s get together’.

So we who share the concern are the most important set of relationships but we also need other people. We might need:

- Someone to help us organise our meeting
- Someone to give us advice on how to proceed
- Someone to get us access to some resources
- Someone who knows about legal things, or who can introduce us to politicians

Next is DECISION MAKING

Getting people together is one thing, having all those people agree on what we should do is another thing.

So we need to learn:

- How to give everyone in the group a chance to speak
- How to stop any one person speaking so much no one else ever gets a chance
- How to handle arguments
- How to decide if there is a difference of opinion
- To get this KNOWLEDGE we might need to look outside the group for another RELATIONSHIP; someone who has done this and can share with the knowledge how to do it.
- Who would you go to?

Finally we will need RESOURCES to get together and do things.

- We might need a place to meet
- Transport to get there etc
- All of this costs money \$\$

So the money will need to come from us or we will need some other Relationships to help us out.

The other relationships might be:

- An organisation that will help
- A politician
- A business person

Who would you go to try and get some help with resources?

- Lots of people come together to do things
- There are lots of groups of people with intellectual disabilities who have come together to do things:
 - IYHG
 - NCEC
 - Talking About Bullying are three examples

There could be many more.

Thanks for listening

Any questions