



Paul Reid

Independent Chairman - Citizens Assembly on Drugs

National Dugs Forum – November 2023



“Deliberative  
democracy”

An amazing process  
– seeking  
recommendations  
from citizens

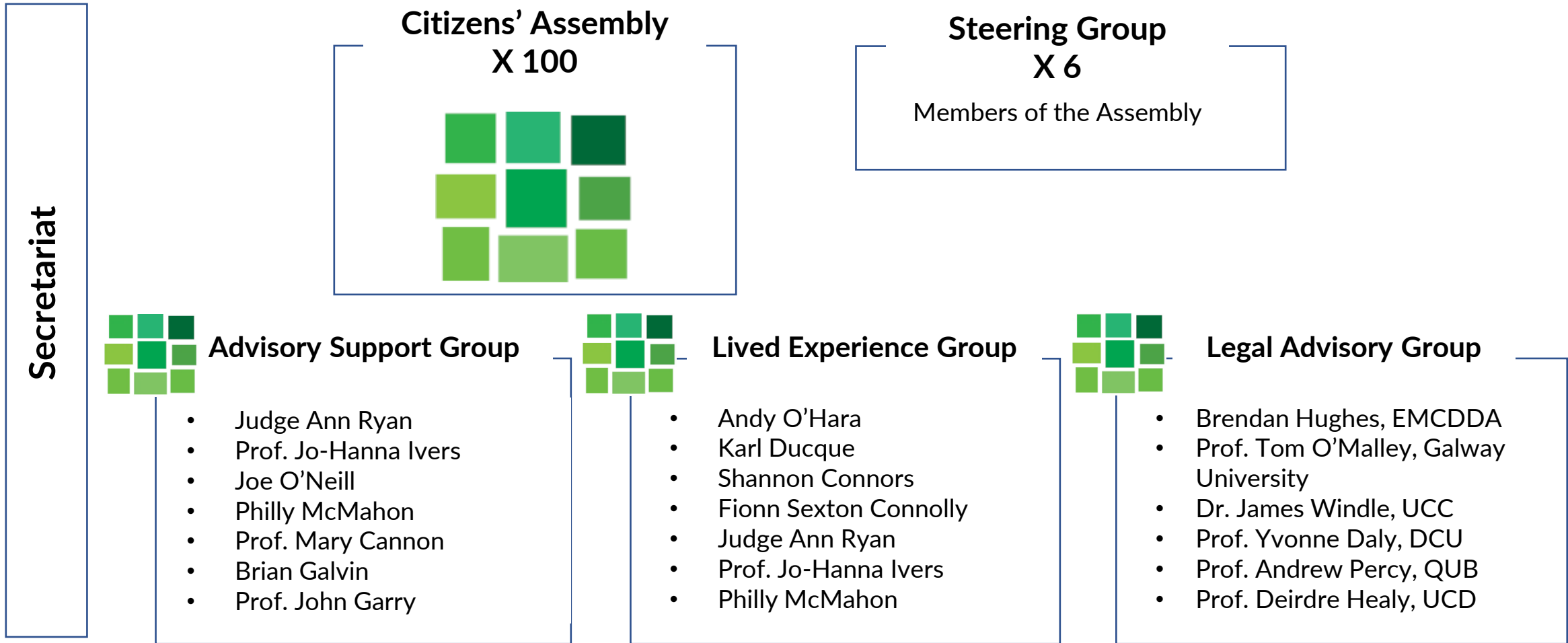




---

Our mandate was set by the  
Houses of the Oireachtas

# Important that we had good advice throughout








The assembly engaged in a range of processes

An **Tionól**  
**Saoránach**



The **Citizens'**  
**Assembly**





## Some common themes emerged during the process

- Pervasive and changing nature of drug use
- Stigma and marginalisation
- Impact of early life trauma
- Vicious cycle of criminality
- Access to services
- Political priority?
- Funding & resourcing



We concluded in  
late October 2023  
& balloted on our  
recommendations







# We made 36 recommendations

## Across a range of areas including

- Decriminalisation via a health lead approach
- Specific focus on marginalised communities
- Political prioritisation
- Access to services
- Funding & resourcing
- Prevention & Education

# Thank you.

The work of the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use via:

Website:

[www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie)

Twitter (X): @paulreiddublin