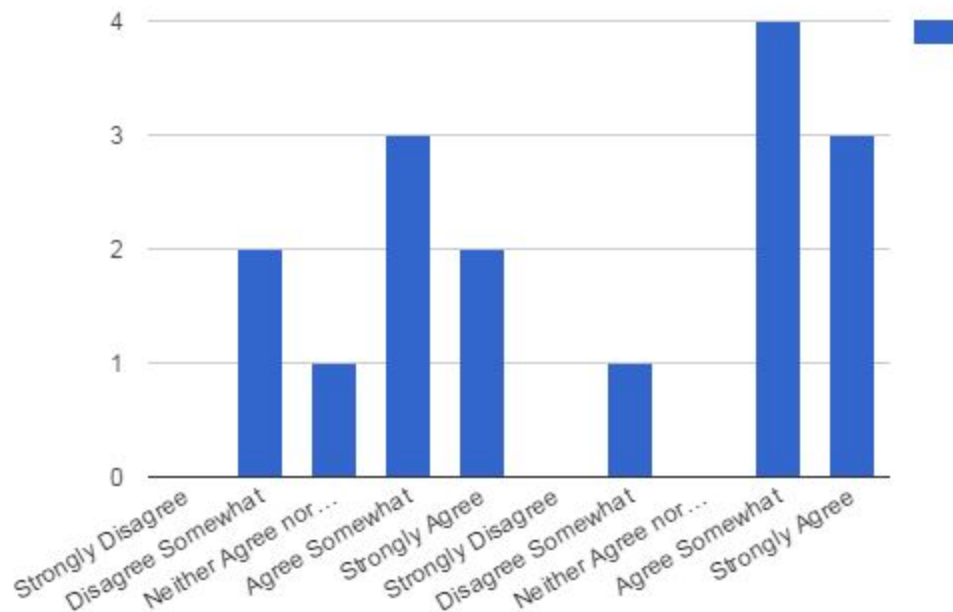


Political Thinking

Meeting No 6.0

Topic.” Current policies with respect to Education are not working and need a major re-think.”

Participants opinions	Before discussion	66%	agreement,
	After discussion	78%	agreement



Before the discussion

After the discussion

Before the discussion views were diverse, with the majority view that current policies with respect to Education were not working and needed a major re-think, and a minority were in disagreement.

The proportion of views in agreement increased considerably as a result of the discussion; the group were very much in agreement.

Principal points made during the debate

By those tending to agree that **“Current policies with respect to Education are not working and need a major rethink”**

- The long standing traditional emphasis on academic education is mistaken.
- There is a longstanding failure to provide adequate technical education and craft skills.
- The 50% target for university education is mistaken; this form of education is not suitable for this proportion.
- There is a cultural bias towards the academic and away from the technical, inappropriate in the increasingly technological world.
- The Grammar school education is inappropriate even for some of those who meet the intelligence criteria for entry to these schools.
- School teachers are not sufficiently valued or appreciated; pay scales do not adequately reward the experienced and committed teacher.
- The matching of education to career opportunities is inadequate.
- Centralisation of the curriculum means schools are not responsive to the needs of their pupils.

By those tending to **disagree** that **“Current policies with respect to Education are not working and need a major rethink”**

- There were no points made in support of the status quo in Education.

Other points of interest

- The principal objective of Education should be to enable someone to look after their personal health (broadly defined to include diet, and physical and mental care and development), to develop an awareness of skills to achieve sound social relationships, and to persuade (ie communicate effectively with others.) None of these are prioritised by the current curriculum.
- The goal of Education should be to teach how to learn effectively.