



ConnectGroups
helping support groups & individuals



Watching your Group Grow

Did you know that all groups have stages of development?

This means that as your group grows, it will change.

Groups have been described as growing in four stages.

The stages are –

- Forming
- Storming
- Norming
- Performing

Forming

When your group first starts, people might be shy or unsure.

They might not be willing to get involved because they are not sure what the group will be like, or are too shy to speak up.

You should be very friendly and welcoming to your group members so that they feel relaxed and able to get involved.



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Being supportive and encouraging will help them be part of the group in a way that is right for them.

Storming

As people feel more confident, they might have other ideas about the way the group should run.

This is a sign that people care about the group.

At this stage, it is important to listen to people's ideas.

Everyone should be involved in decision making.

If you don't agree on something, think about using a confidential voting system (where members write their vote on a piece of paper without anyone else seeing and a person counts the votes at the end).

Norming

As the group gets more established, members trust the group more and are feeling more like they belong to the group.

This is a good time to support members to get new skills and maybe to try something new.



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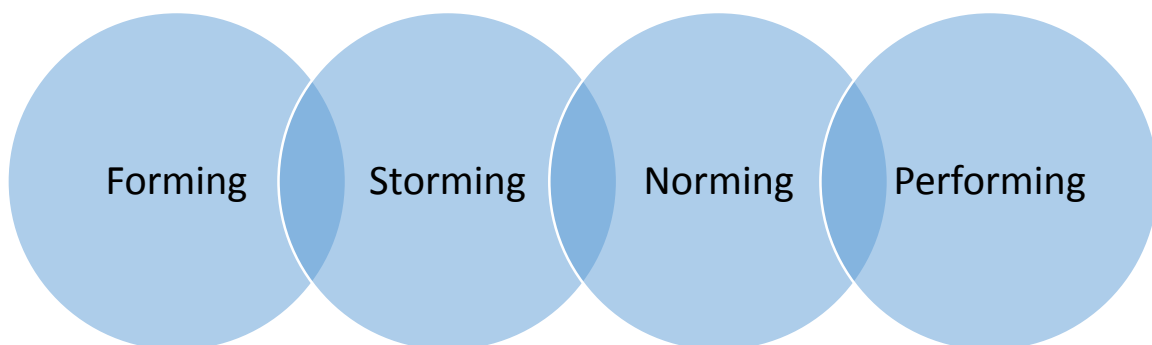
Performing

Now everyone feels responsible for the group and for the group working well.

They feel like they are a part of the group and that it is theirs.

They are able to listen to each other and tell each other what they think.

The Four Stages of Group Development





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New and Existing Support Group Development, Telephone Information Line,
Information Forums, Facilities and Equipment Hire

On-line Directory of Support Groups and Community Organisations, E-News

People With disabilities WA:

1/37 Hampden Road, Nedlands WA 6009

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