

# Awakening Democracy — Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

## Strategic Intent 2016–2019 Summary

### Vision

An equitable, environmentally sustainable and healthy Canberra where political and economic decisions are made by everyone for our common good.

### Mission

To make Participatory Democracy work in the ACT for decisions in the public interest.

### CAPaD Objectives

1. To empower people in Canberra to own and plan for our common future by developing and supporting citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making.
2. To facilitate opportunities for citizen input to government deliberation.
3. To develop and assist citizen capacity to hold governments more directly accountable.

### Our theory of change

CAPaD runs training in participatory deliberative democracy methods and processes, helps create and promote ways to engage citizens and parliamentarians in participatory processes such as citizen juries, assemblies, and other genuine consultations, THEN more people will be more engaged in decision making at strategy development, policy formulation and planning levels, AND THEN governance in Canberra will be more democratic, LEADING TO better outcomes for society and the environment.

To exercise democratic power, citizens need to stay **awake and informed individually**, and to **deliberate and act collectively**.

### Strategic Priorities

**Educate, Demonstrate, Legislate** participatory democracy practices in ACT governance

Priority activity to meet objective	Time frame	Success indicator
<b>1. To empower people in Canberra to own and plan for our common future by developing and supporting citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making.</b>		
1.1 Educate Canberra civil society groups about Participatory Democracy (PD) processes	July 2017	A PD manual and attending 20 group gatherings
1.2 Demonstrate a PD practice in collaboration with the New Democracy Foundation to solve a Government chosen topic.	Oct 2017	A government sponsored PD process is conducted and evaluated
1.3 Conduct meetings with ACT politicians to advocate PD.	April 2017	A government sponsored PD process is conducted and evaluated
<b>2. To facilitate opportunities for citizen input to government deliberation.</b>		
2.1 Deliver a public citizen's jury process sponsored by the ACT Government	July 2017	Report in media and on ACT Gov website
2.2 Pass a Deliberative Practices Act in the ACT Legislative Assembly.	Dec 2017	A draft Deliberative Practices Bill document
2.3 Conduct community organising training	Dec 2017	Evaluation of program completed
2.4 Engage with ACT civil society groups to implement participatory democracy	July 2017	Be invited to 20 group gatherings
<b>3. To develop and assist citizen capacity to hold governments more directly accountable.</b>		
3.1 Establish a Public Interest Council in the ACT	Dec 2017	A Public Interest Council exists
3.2 Strengthen the office of ombudsman		The ombudsman reports to the community with improvements
3.3 Conduct a participatory process for citizens to design a mechanism for transparency and accountability for representatives	July 2017	An accountability charter for representatives is created