



## Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy (CAPaD)

Candidate statement for the voters of Canberra, (to be entered on the CAPaD website on June 27)  
[www.canberra-alliance.org.au](http://www.canberra-alliance.org.au)

My name is Carly Saeedi and I am a candidate for the House of Representatives in the electorate of Fenner.  
Party: Greens

### These are my principal qualifications for being a parliamentarian.

I was born and raised in Canberra and continue to live here with my husband and three children. I hold a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws (honours) from the University of Canberra and a Masters in International Law from the Australian National University. I was admitted to the role of legal practitioners in the ACT Supreme Court in 2008. I have spent a number of years working in the not for profit sector at the Australian Council for International Development, as a humanitarian legal officer at Australian Red Cross and completed a placement at Aboriginal Legal Services in the ACT. Following law school I was appointed as research assistant and later associate to former Chief Justice Higgins of the ACT Supreme Court. Aside from gaining a greater understanding of the criminal justice system I saw first hand the need for a better way of dealing with drug addiction and mental illness. For almost five years I worked as an immigration lawyer specializing in refugee law. During that time I worked in private practice, as an immigration lawyer for Companion House and as a tutor at the Australian National University.

### If elected, these are the issues that I see as the most important for the long-term benefit of my constituents and towards which I will be working on their behalf.

Canberra is a beautiful city to live in. We have a low unemployment rate, are home to world-class universities, kids can ride their bikes to school, kangaroos frequent backyards and on the coldest of days our sky is still blue. Yet a beautiful home must be maintained, given attention and invested in. As a very safe seat we are ignored by the major parties. I promise to give north Canberra the attention it deserves. As a candidate for the Greens I am not bound to tow the party's line but am free to vote in Fenner's best interests on every bill every time. I would work to ban large political donations from industries with a history of influencing party policy so that parliament is working for Australians and not vested interests. The Greens would invest in what makes Canberra strong. We would invest in universities, invest in our arts and cultural institutions and oppose moving government departments to marginal seats in order to win votes. We would close offshore detention centers. By increasing our humanitarian intake and funding UNHCR processing centres we not only provide a legitimate pathway for people to come but a more humane way and save close to \$3 billion. We would make housing more affordable. We're the only country that makes it easier to buy your 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> house than buying your first. Most importantly we have a plan to transition our economy, its called Renew Australia. It is a jobs-generating, investing-generating plan designed to ensure we are not left behind the rest of the world. We would invest in our scientists knowing the returns are even greater.

### I will abide by the CAPaD Charter of Democratic Commitments as follows:

1. I will at all times tell the truth to the citizens and voters of Australia and be honest in all aspects of my work as an elected representative of the Australian people.
2. I will fully disclose and make public the sources and value of all political funding donations, contributions, gifts public and private (*over \$1500 in a 12 month period*) towards my election campaign and political activity.
3. I undertake to be fair, ethical, compassionate and diligent in serving my electorate and the nation at all times, and to uphold the Australian value of "a fair go for all". Where possible, I will promote and support participatory and deliberative methods for policy and legislative decisions.
4. I will place the public interest (the welfare and wellbeing of the general population and the integrity of the planet) ahead of sectional, corporate, party, personal, religious or other interests.
5. I will never abuse or misuse the allowances, subsidies, concessions and privileges accorded to me by the Australian people and Parliament in my role as an elected representative.

Signed

Witnessed

Date 26/6/2016

Please send a scanned copy of your statement to [info@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:info@canberra-alliance.org.au) Desirably before Monday 27 June, when a summary of those who have submitted a statement and their statements will be placed on the website [www.canberra-alliance.org.au](http://www.canberra-alliance.org.au).