**Awakening Democracy - Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy
Strategic Plan 2016 - 2017**

**Our vision**

A democratic Canberra – where citizens trust their elected representatives, hold them accountable, engage in decision making, and defend what sustains the public interest

**The changes we seek**

* everyone knows more about the risks to a strong and effective democracy
* workable models to support democracy are tested and implemented, with widespread public commitment
* democratic systems and processes support the public interest
* people vote for representatives who commit to improving democracy

**What we will do next**

* build widespread interest and support for a strong and effective democracy within the community
* create ways for people to listen to and share what matters to them with each other and elected representatives
* inform/educate, demonstrate and learn what works to strengthen democracy
* advocate and defend democratic systems and processes, including legislation
* monitor and hold our representatives accountable to the community

**How will we know if we are on the right track?**

* Canberrans will be enthusiastic about what we are doing (ie most know about it and support in principle, many know the details and are engaged in some way)
* Elected representatives will respect our work
* Civil society, business, and elected representatives will want to work with us to demonstrate and learn what is possible, workable and effective for strengthening democracy

**Strategic Priorities 2016-2017**

*Educate, Demonstrate, Legislate participatory democracy (PD) practices in ACT governance*

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| **Priority activity to meet objective** | **Time frame** | **Success indicator** |
| **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.** |
| 1.1 Educate Canberrans and local organisations about PD processes and models for accountable representation eg Learning Circles, Methods manual etc |  |  |
| 1.2 Advocate for PD with ACT politicians and civil society |  |  |
| 1.3 Conduct or arrange training to support social change |  |  |
| 1.4 Engage with ACT civil society groups and Assembly members who want to demonstrate PD in action  |  |  |
| **2. To facilitate opportunities for citizen input to government deliberation.** |
| 2.1 Deliver a public citizen’s jury process sponsored by the ACT Government  |  |  |
| 2.2 Demonstrate another PD practice eg Respectful Dialogue |  |  |
| 2.3 Use a Kitchen table conversation based model to provide citizen feedback to Government on a specific policy issue |  |  |
| 2.4 Develop and demonstrate what genuine consultation and input to decision making looks like |  |  |
| **3. To develop and assist citizen capacity to hold governments more directly accountable.** |
| 3.1 Pass a Deliberative Practices Act in the ACT Legislative Assembly |  |  |
| 3.2 Advocate for stronger accountability and transparency including strengthening existing mechanisms and roles.  |  |  |
| 3.3 Conduct a participatory process to design a mechanism for transparency and accountability for representatives |  |  |
| 3.4 Investigate whether a Public Interest Council for the ACT or another method would provide a formal way of evaluating the performance of elected reps against their commitments to the electorate |  |  |