

Table: Governance Reform Transform_{v02/16a}

Reformation

Phase	Process	Details
1A	a) Political Party Reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Democratise political parties, 2. Democratise candidate selection, 3. Registration of political parties should be open to all political movements in the community without discrimination, 4. Public funding of political parties to allow for long-term policy development, assist party members to debate and democratically determine their party policies, and attract and empower individual party members,
	b) Political Funding Reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limits to political party donations, very small (tightly capped) donations/ gifts/ in-kind support from private Australian citizens only * 2. Full real time, transparent reporting of donations; full details of donors and gifts reported in an easily accessed form, * 3. Support public interest lobbying, 4. Establish anti-corruption commissions for all jurisdictions, (See also Electoral Reform)
	c) Electoral Reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Automatic enrolling (See Voting reform) with extremely stringent opt out option, 2. Fixed term electoral cycles / parliaments (4 years), 3. Limit number of terms a person can serve (2 or 3 terms), 4. Staggered parliamentary terms (50% turn over each election), 5. Mandatory standards to political election advertising, 6. Limits on election advertising spending or public funding of election campaigns, 7. truth in political advertising laws that are nationally consistent, constitutional and uphold freedom of speech
	d) Voting Reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move to proportional representation in government elections at all levels of government in Australia (the Single Transferable Vote [as used in the Australian below the line Senate system]); such systems can also include rules to ensure gender balance and representation of other significant minorities, and other species / future generations), 2. Introduce optional preferential voting (voter should be able to vote for as few or as many candidates as they want), ["optional preferential voting" above the line and "partial" optional preferential voting with a minimum sequential number of preferences below the line (this has worked well at elections for the New South Wales state upper house, having been introduced after the same problems were encountered there in 1999.)] 3. Develop rules for recognising voter intentions (minor mistakes should not invalidate their vote), [n the inquiry into the conduct of the 2013 Federal Election - by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters – recommends "partial" optional preferential voting below the line] 4. Alternatively, introduce voting systems (such as multi-member-party or Hare-Clarke) to ensure representation for each party, and

		<p>independent candidates, closely match the proportion of the electorate which supports them,</p> <p>5. Reduce voting age to 16 (same as age of consent for sex),</p>
	e) Improve accountability / representation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce standards for representatives (behaviour, funding) eg Charter of Democratic Commitments, 2. Improve ongoing relationship between representatives and constituents using participatory / deliberative methods that avoid tyrannies, 3. Minimise influence of corporate lobbyists (registers, real time reporting of access, open diaries), * 4. Establish anti-corruption commissions for all jurisdictions,
	f) Parliamentary Reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limit the power of the government executive / re-assert the power of the parliament itself, 2. Review the Westminster government-opposition system to build more multi-partisan 'in the national interest' governance, 3. Explore various coalition government methods to share parliamentary power, 4. Promote 'non-professional' parliamentary candidates (age, experience criteria), 5. Fixed parliamentary terms * 6. Independent Speaker of the House and President of the Senate * 7.
1B	g) Establish Community Democracy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using transition towns as a model, and building on other community initiatives, grow community (neighbourhood or community of interest), investment in the skills of self-governance – promote citizen assemblies, citizens' juries, kitchen table conversations and other participatory and deliberative mechanisms, 2. Broaden the curriculum content of civic (social) education about governance in schools at primary and secondary levels, 3. Articulate the path from 'power over' to 'power with' and pursue this, 4. Investigate Wisdom Councils: priority setting and review, 5. Promote the role of participatory / deliberative democracy mechanisms for use by government, 6. Legislate to require government to respond to the outputs of these deliberative techniques, 7. Citizen groups to take over municipal councils and build mechanisms for democratic process within local government areas, 8. Build electorate based community governance structures to choose candidates for state/territory and federal elections (see Indi), *
1C	h) Democratised corporations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin to arrange shareholder power so one shareholder one vote (not one share one vote), 2. Re-mutualise businesses, 3. Shareholders and staff change businesses into cooperatives,
1D	i) Federation reform *	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reform Federal structures to better coordinate policy and activity on national issues across State/Territory borders; eg stronger COAG systems.
Transformation		
Phase	Process	Details

2A	j) Build subsidiarity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building on community democracy, work with all levels of government to devolve decision making down and delegate effective service delivery to the most cost and scope effective level, 2. This may involve altering jurisdictional boundaries,
2B	k) Build regional and even global networks of self-governing communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deepen community democracy (1B) and promote development of further self-governing communities, 2. Develop agglomerations of citizen assemblies across geographic and political scales,
2C	L) Democratised the economic system	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenge the metrics used for wellbeing -> focus on common good not corporate profit, 2. Replace 'growth' economic model with 'steady state', improvement, regenerative and wellbeing economic models, 3. Full cost accounting,
3	m) Continue to consolidate the transfer of power and authority to communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursue the path from 'power over' to 'power with',

* These items are included in the 2019 New Democracy *Reforming our democracy* document.

Other ideas from that document:

3. Undertake a **trial of changes to seating arrangements** in parliament to encourage it to operate with more civility and help to promote real, constructive dialogue.
4. Introduce more **'free votes'** in the parliament, through a new parliamentary convention or the introduction of the United Kingdom's **Three Line Whip** approach.
6. Implement more stringent **transparency requirements for political parties** to help improve the public's understanding of how parties operate.
7. Undertake a trial of **AEC-issued candidate information packs** that give voters more information about local candidates so that they can make properly informed choices.
8. Undertake a process after each election that gives citizens a chance to openly communicate their views on **how we can improve elections and our democracy**.
9. Commit political parties to the same standards that companies are bound by when they advertise during election campaigns to **promote better truth in advertising**.
10. Implement **comprehensive and continual professional training in policy, ethics and procedures** for ministers, members of parliament and ministerial staff.
12. Implement an **independent selection process for senior appointments** to the **Australian Public Service, the judiciary and major statutory bodies** that includes improved parliamentary oversight but does not limit the ability of governments to enact change.
13. Commit to a **trial of a citizen jury** which would allow a small representative sample of the community to explore a major national issue in depth.
14. Lead a national conversation to **renew Australian democracy** and **update the Constitution**.
15. Lead a national conversation about the operation of **the Australian Federation**.

Ideas for improving democracy in Australia from the [Museum of Australian Democracy](#) (MoAD) and the [Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis](#) (IGPA) at the University of Canberra who have conducted quantitative and qualitative surveys on the relationship between trust in the political system and attitudes towards democracy in Australia ([the Democracy-100 Report *How Australians imagine their democracy: the 'Power of Us'*](#)).

Box 1

WHAT AUSTRALIA THINKS

- Citizens' juries
- Online plebiscites
- Citizens' legislature
- A lower voting age
- A maximum voting age
- Optional preferential voting or a 'none of the above'
- Caps on political advertising and donations
- Party democratisation
- Increased role for local decision makers
- Right of recall for MPs
- Reducing the size of electorates
- Allowing all MPs a free vote in Parliament

WHAT YOU THINK

- Longer parliamentary terms
- Abolish the states
- Become a republic with an Australian head of state
- Increase options for citizen participation in decision making
- Make 'civics' a compulsory subject from primary school onwards
- Introduce proportional representation based on background and real indigenous representation
- Abolish the senate and replace with a randomly selected House of the People
- Encourage more women to enter Parliament
- Introduce a Federal ICAC
- 30% of Parliament members should be under 35 years of age

(How Australians imagine their democracy: the 'Power of Us')