

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

JULY 2020

Dear members and friends

Eleven items in this month's Awakening Democracy.

Keeping government democratic in times of pandemic and after

1. Look at the work being done at the Grata Fund to [monitor the laws being introduced during covid](#) restrictions. And a report, [In democracy we Trust](#), on the sidelining of parliament. They offer a set of recommendations about what should be happening.

2. CAPaD submitted to the Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation Inquiry into exemption of delegated legislation from parliamentary oversight during COVID-19. [Our submission in on the inquiry website here](#). We are one of 18 submitters in this specialised area.

3. **Saving democracy post Covid** The [Museum of Australian Democracy](#) and the [Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis](#) at the University of Canberra are inviting people to join a really exciting unique experiment: [How can we save democracy in a post-COVID 19 world?](#) This is about reviewing a new book as part of [a Facebook group](#) or by [emailing Mark Evans directly](#). This is part of [their Democracy 2025 project](#). More details if you want to join at the end of the links.

4. Peter Tait's piece asking **what the role of the public health community in defending democracy** is during this time of covid, *As Australia slips toward fascism, where does the public health community stand?*, [is in Croakey](#). His follow up piece *Standing against the slide to fascism: what can public health do now?* [is also on Croakey](#).

5. Finally, the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister responded to our **5 April petition asking for parliament to sit during the pandemic** (on June 19th). He claims that parliament is not sitting for fewer days than in previous years; planned 65 days for the House and 53 for the Senate (plus 15 days of Estimates). This is down from the previous timetable of 72 and 57 days (plus 19 days) respectively. Comparably there were 64, 65 and 45 days House sittings in 2017, 2018 and 2019 (an election year). So, no problem?

Help needed

6. We are still looking for a person with skills in Microsoft Excel or Access to help build a database to help us analyse the 2020 ACT Election Candidate Statement responses. Please [contact the secretary](#) if you can help.

Getting better representation for better government

7. **The 2020 ACT Election on October 17th**.

Sunday 28th June 2020 ACT Election - Choosing the candidate who will deliver government *with* we, the people [Zoom event link can found here](#).

CAPaD - making change in 2020.

Two more Zoom Events are scheduled for the next two months.

8. **Sunday July 26th**, Lyn Stevens will present **Government *with* the people – building trust in deliberative processes**, CAPaD's reflections on the OECD review of citizen deliberative processes and its relevance for the ACT experience of deliberation. The OECD Report [Innovative Citizen](#)

[Participation and New Democratic Institutions: catching the deliberative wave](#), is available. CAPaD was involved in [the international review process](#).

[Register at Humantix here](#). The link to the Zoom event will be send on registration.

Our [report Citizen Review of 2017-18 participatory deliberative processes in the ACT can be found here](#).

9. August 30th: We have invited the [Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis at Canberra University](#) to present on their [Democracy 2025 project](#).

10. **AGM Save the date**. November 1st, 2pm, probably still on Zoom. If you are interested I helping out on the committee, please let the Secretary know.

New stuff to read and look at

What else is new (in Australian and the World)

11. Newby on the field, the [Australian Democracy Network](#). Their current focus is on the enforcing democracy in the age of covid.

From your committee

Contact us: secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au

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The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy