

Candidate Statement for the 2020 ACT Election

The Candidate Statement is to give voters information to guide their selection of candidates based on the candidate's ability to be an MLA and their commitment to strengthen the democratic fabric of the ACT.

My name is **Bethany Williams** and I am a candidate for the ACT Legislative Assembly in the electorate of **Yerrabi**.

I am endorsed to represent the Canberra Progressives.

These are my skills and experience for being an MLA.

My skills and experience to be an MLA stem from my real-life experience being a member of the Canberra community. I am a Canberra mother who has worked in the Australian Public Service for years and has contributed to the community through starting the Canberra Nippers program. My strengths are my persistence, my compassion, my willingness to ask the hard questions and pursue answers. I am not a career politician. I just want to make sure the government does the right thing by the community. I want to ensure political integrity and transparency in government.

Further, I have these skills and experiences that qualifies me for a role in the ministry.

A role in the ministry would be an incredible honour and responsibility, however, I would prefer to be honest and say that I would not immediately possess the skills and experience to take on such a role. What would make me suitable for a role in the ministry would be to be elected to the Legislative Assembly first, and spend several years listening and learning about issues of importance, particularly in a ministry where I might be able to make the most difference.

If elected, this is how I plan to represent my constituents.

Yerrabi is one of the fastest growing electorates in the ACT. But the infrastructure is not keeping pace with the growth, and the Yerrabi community are getting frustrated. Planning for roads lags suburb growth, causing gridlock and a massive time cost. We need to address school numbers and ensure that kids are getting the best education possible. We need a hospital in Gungahlin. The police station needs an upgrade. We need to make sure our emergency services are properly resourced. And Giralang needs shops! So, if elected, I will be pushing and prodding the government to make these things happen.

If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote good government and strengthen the responsiveness, accountability and transparency of government in the ACT. (Up to 100 words, dot points, in 10pt Arial font)

I plan to be a representative of not just the people in my own electorate, but of all the people of Canberra. While I will make sure that I fight for the things that matter to my electorate, I also want to be a representative that holds the government of the day to account across the board. I want to know where the money is being spent. I want transparency about the deals that the government makes with large developers. I want to understand why the government is so reliant on rates and land tax and push for a decrease in both.

If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote and improve informed participation by my constituents in ACT policy development and decision making.

I want to make sure all constituents have a say, not just the ones with the loudest voices. I want to be accessible to my constituents and give them more opportunities to make their voices heard. I want to engage with them through social media, through my office and through hosting participatory events and by getting out more in my community. I want to staff my office with spokespeople from diverse sectors of the community (CALD, people with disability, First Nations People) so that people from these diverse groups feel like they are being represented, and to help inform policy and decision making.

CAPaD - *Awakening Democracy*

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

www.canberra-alliance.org.au

Statement of Democratic Commitment

1. I will strictly abide by the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Orders Code of Conduct for MLAs.
2. I will fully disclose and make public the sources and value of all political funding donations, contributions, gifts public and private towards my election campaign and political activity, within one month of receipt.
3. I will place the public interest (the welfare and wellbeing of the general population and the integrity of the planet) ahead of sectional, corporate, personal, religious or other interests.

Signed

Bethany Williams

Date 31 July 2020

Please send a pdf copy of your statement to secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au for placement on the CAPaD website.

Authorised by Peter Tait, Secretary, Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy.