

## **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 **Rachel Stephen-Smith** and I am a candidate for the ACT Legislative Assembly in the electorate of **Kurrajong**.

**I am endorsed to represent the ALP**

**These are my skills and experience for being an MLA.** *(No more than 100 words in 10pt Arial font)*

After more than 20 years working in public policy and volunteering in my community, I was elected to the Assembly in 2016. As a local member, I've listened to people and worked to deliver positive outcomes for the inner north and south. I have also served as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs; Children, Youth and Families; Disability; Community Services; Multicultural Affairs; Employment and Workplace Safety; Government Services and Procurement; Urban Renewal; and Health. It has been a privilege to serve the community in portfolios that make a difference in the lives of Canberra's workers and families.

**Further, I have these skills and experiences that qualifies me for a role in the ministry.** *(No more than 50 words in 10pt Arial font)*

As Minister for Health, I have seen our public servants and healthcare workers at their best in responding to COVID-19 and have worked hard to support them in protecting ACT residents. I've sought to listen to all sectors of our community and communicate clearly in an environment of great uncertainty.

**If elected, this is how I plan to represent my constituents.** *(No more than 100 words in 10pt Arial font)*

As a Member for Kurrajong, I have a strong record of engaging with the community, including through mobile offices throughout my four years in the Assembly. My office is responsive to constituent issues and I regularly attend community meetings and meet with individual constituents and representative groups. Just as importantly, I represent my constituents by pursuing outcomes that reflect the progressive values of my electorate – from secure local jobs to disability inclusion to self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. If I'm re-elected, I'll continue to be a genuine, strong and progressive voice for the heart of Canberra.

**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)*

- Promote deliberative democracy where appropriate, recognising that transparency in these processes is vital, as demonstrated through the citizens' jury on motor accident insurance.
- Ensure the Government reports back on community consultation in a timely and transparent way.
- Support the ACT Planning Review to deliver a planning system that enables population growth while protecting Canberra's character and building a city that is liveable, sustainable, resilient, and diverse.
- Continue to work with the Human Rights Commission and stakeholders to create a more transparent and restorative child protection system.
- Support Legislative Assembly committees to examine complex issues in the interests of the community.

**If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote and improve informed participation by my constituents in ACT policy development and decision making.** *(Up to 50 words, dot points, in 10pt Arial font)*

- Use deliberative processes and explore new engagement opportunities to ensure diverse voices are heard, as demonstrated through the Caring for Carers and Disability Justice Strategies.
- Work with community councils, residents' groups and constituents to make it easier for Kurrajong residents to have a say in decisions that matter to them.

### **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.

# **CAPaD** - *Awakening Democracy*

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

[www.canberra-alliance.org.au](http://www.canberra-alliance.org.au)

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



Date

24 AUGUST 2020

Please send a pdf copy of your statement to [secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au) for placement on the CAPaD website.

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