

## **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 Marisa Paterson and I am a candidate for the ACT Legislative Assembly in the electorate of **Murrumbidgee**.

**I am endorsed to represent the ALP.**

**These are my skills and experience for being an MLA.**

I currently work at the Australian National University as a leading social policy researcher. I have spent the last 20 years working on a broad range of complex social and mental health issues, in both a professional and volunteer capacity. The part of my job that I excel at is listening and understanding people and complex situations, and navigating evidenced based policy solutions. I am an experienced leader and with strong communication and consultation skills. I will bring new, fresh ideas to the Assembly and be a strong advocate for the people of Murrumbidgee.

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

My research career has instilled in me an evidence based approach to policy development and implementation. Further to this, I have a quest to understand and seek informed, innovative solutions to society's complex problems. This is based in the fundamental understanding that to promote change and growth, you have to bring people with you.

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

I am inspired by the people, businesses, environment and community that is Murrumbidgee, and I plan to be an inspiring leader. This electorate has been my home for my adult life. I came here knowing no-one, and now I wouldn't live anywhere else. I am proud to bring my children up in this community.

I will be a responsive and consultative representative.

Embracing the diversity of views and values in our community, I will seek to listen, understand and make decisions with transparency and integrity that are in the best interests of Murrumbidgee residents.

**If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote good government and strengthen the responsiveness, accountability and transparency of government in the ACT.**

- I would seek to contribute to a culture in the Legislative Assembly that promotes good government practices, particularly in respect to integrity, transparency and accountability in decisions that are made.
- I will promote and support an evidence based policy agenda that also recognizes the needs and complex workings of the community.
- I undertake to be a highly consultative and accessible representative to ensure good governance and representativeness.
- Accountability, commitment and honesty are leadership qualities that I value highly and would seek to undertake as a representative for the people of Murrumbidgee to ensure good government.

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

To promote and improve informed participation by constituents I will:

- create a supportive culture and environment that welcomes diversity in views and perspectives
- facilitate community and stakeholder engagement processes locally
- promote communication and dialogue around decisions that are made


# **CAPaD** - *Awakening Democracy*

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

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

Date 21/08/2020

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.