

CAPaD - *Awakening Democracy*

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

www.canberra-alliance.org.au

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 Alix O'Hara and I am a candidate for the ACT Legislative Assembly in the electorate of ~~Brindabella / Ginninderra / Kurrajong / Murrumbidgee / Yerrabi~~. *(Cross out those not applicable)*

I am endorsed to represent the ~~ALP / Canberra Liberals / Greens~~ **/ Australian Climate Change Justice Party / Independent**

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

As a self-made multi-award winning innovator and health-preneur, and as an internationally recognized business leader and visionary, I recognize gaps and unmet needs and create or adapt solutions. I network and connect to others through values and purpose, and align agendas to deliver outcomes.

I've found that I bring an unusual blend of purpose-driven free-thinking to most of what I do: perhaps having dropped out of highschool I've retained an inventiveness otherwise driven out for those inculcated in how things have always been done. The population health research case that I've just delivered to the UN General assembly often has peoples' eyes popping.

I've also had diverse and challenging life experience that I don't see represented: I founded my company while homeless as result of long term lived experience of all forms of domestic violence, and have faced many hardships since, including chronic financial abuse from Department of Housing, where I currently live in Assisted Accommodation. You would think that Housing and Centrelink would be in support of my endeavours to grow beyond social supports, but I've found otherwise.

I'm an older millennial, I have post traumatic stress disorder, and an Adverse Childhood Experiences Study score of 7. (4 is considered severe, and correlates with lower social outcomes, increased crime and disease risk)

I believe that my exposure to all levels of society grants me a particular empathy for neglected sectors and the challenges they face, as well as an appreciation for how very different perspectives can be. My personal mission in everything I do is to assist others with easier pathways than I have found through life, to pre-empt challenges and build real legacy for a better future.

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)*

My professional skillsets are enterprise level project management, leadership both of teams, and to open entire business categories. I specialize in innovation to bring several paradigm shifting technologies to market and hold several patents internationally.

In general, I rapidly adapt to different technologies and landscapes, e.g. web administration to website and application development to prototype in progress utilizing AI, machine learning and blockchain technologies; or landscapes of academia, sales, startup culture and NFPs. I have a strong customer service orientation and see most skillsets as acquisitions serving fulfilment of a purpose.

I'm new to politics, but I see that to be part of the point. Career politicians are steeped in system and community governance, not leadership or creative approach to foreseeable challenges, which requires far more than incrementalism.

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

Australian Climate Change Justice Party has a strong progressive agenda in climate change justice: mitigation of the impending economic, and social stratification impacts of climate change, as well as environmental challenges.

This is exemplified through our United Solar Policy, bringing a solar unit and battery to every rooftop in Canberra, or otherwise upgrades of existing systems, or providing equivalent shares in solar wind farms. While the free market still makes the transition to clean energy prohibitively expensive for those who'd most benefit from solar power, the impacts will be to crime and other corollaries of poverty and the chronic stress it imposes.

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This policy is my top priority, with interests in preventative health, and improving education to better prepare our younger generations for adulthood. Concepts like continual self-development and empowerment, community involvement and democratic participation, psychology, philosophy, taxes, the law, or how to take care of our minds, bodies and emotional needs are just too important to be left with anyone born with the capacity to breed. This is the origin of intergenerational dysfunction.

I'm particularly passionate about improving the opportunities for Canberra born enterprise, responsible for 2/3 employment opportunities and our economic diversification, but that lacks support for mid-stage startup to fully capitalize on the optimal incubation qualities of the territory: proximity to diplomacy, government, academia and all industry sectors. We should be integrating their best innovative ideas into policy, not leaning entirely on the private sector to lead change... And just hoping that they'll stay in ACT.

I recognise plenty of community level priorities also, but see that these could be addressed by more experienced parliamentarians familiar with the issues.

The gates that I've found on improving quality of life are a particular personal concern. I'm deeply troubled by the taxpayer funded harassment of Centrelink recipients and ACT Housing Residents. Do we want to punish their requiring support, or support those that wish to grow?

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 just heard from Shane Rattenbury that he couldn't entirely block the mandate for non-renewable gas rollout to new Canberra suburbs, because gas lobbyists were calling every member of parliament to protect their interests.

So why wasn't this in media headlines? I don't yet know much yet about standard transparency protocols, but I have an intense sense of justice and I would be leaning on every business and media connection that I have made in my startup journey to howl this stuff from the rooftops.

I can at least start by making it known here. For example, did you know that Federal government is still incentivizing exploratory oil drilling via the R&D tax incentive? It's a battle to prove eligibility for preventative health research serving adjusted economic value of \$19.2 billion, but oil drilling has its own category.

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)

There are – or should be – two levels of local government.

There are housekeeping matters serving community interests. These include school funding, public transport, civic planning, minimizing urban infill and ensuring availability of community amenities.

These should include support to give every member of society every opportunity to live their best life and offer their best back, and require community forums and consultation with interest groups to ascertain their needs, and modelling with co-ops and NFPs for rollout.

Health efforts should likewise involve preventative measures, the best science and incentives for healthful behaviours, not just building more hospitals for after people become sick.

The second level absolutely needs to involve bigger picture ideas about how to move our society forward and address impending challenges, such as job scarcity through automation and AI; mitigating climate change, and to adapt to climate change when it eventually affects our crops, and proliferation of new disease. Current challenges around the costs of living, property ownership and the broad drivers of millennial and Gen Z mental health concerns remain outstanding. This level involves more collaboration with thought leaders than community groups.

The latter is what government "leadership" should mean, but I haven't seen proactive efforts on these for as long as I've been aware of politics. And that is why I am here.

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.

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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 Alix O'Hara

Date 10th October 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.