

# Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

OCTOBER 2021

G'day members and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy: Active Democracy ACT event](#), Charitable Status achieved, Active Democracy ACT progress, and more things to read and watch.

## COMING UP

### Active Democracy ACT Big Deal post screening debrief and action 24 Oct

On Tuesday 19th October the ABC is showing "[The Big Deal](#)" - a new comedic documentary hosted by Craig Reucassel on how money corrupts democracy in Australia. It will then be up [on iView](#).

After watching it, we are confident that you will want to talk about it, DO something or find out what is happening in the ACT to strengthen our democracy.

[Active Democracy ACT](#) is holding a discussion at 2pm Sunday 24 October after watching this film to debrief, hear your thoughts, and let you know how we are planning to facilitate change in our community through holding local Kitchen Table Conversations in the Federal electorates of Bean, Fenner and Canberra.

We are part of Active Democracy Australia, which aims to shift power away from elites and career politicians in parties towards you and me. Part of this work is improving how we relate to/engage with our local Federal member of parliament (MP). Our group is not associated with any political party.

By working together to improve how our democracy functions we can help to create the future we desire.

Join us at 2pm Sunday 24 October on Zoom. [Book here](#) to receive a zoom link.

You can also sign up to participate in the activities at your local group of [Active Democracy Australia](#). See Active Groups.

## ACTIVE PROJECTS

### Active Democracy ACT & Australia

[Active Democracy ACT](#) is growing and 'launching' at the after Big Deal event (see above). [Active Democracy Australia](#) is getting an upgraded website, launching soon. The Bean group is meeting regularly. We are hoping people in Canberra and Fenner will want to start their own groups.

### Demfest 21: a festival celebrating locally driven democracy in Australia.

First week of November with live discussion and sessions on the weekend of November 6 and 7. If you have something to say, or just want to come and listen, [find out more here](#).

## OTHER ACTIVITY

### Charity status

ACNC has approved our charitable status. We are now exploring Donor Gift Recipient status. If anyone has the knowledge and skills to help, [please be in contact](#).

More importantly, we can now apply for philanthropic funding. We need to write up applications. If any of you think you can help with that, [please contact us](#).

## NEW STUFF TO READ AND LOOK AT

**The word of the week**, month and indeed year if not decade is **snollygoster**. A snollygoster is a **shrewd, unprincipled person, especially a politician**. I can think of quite a few examples.

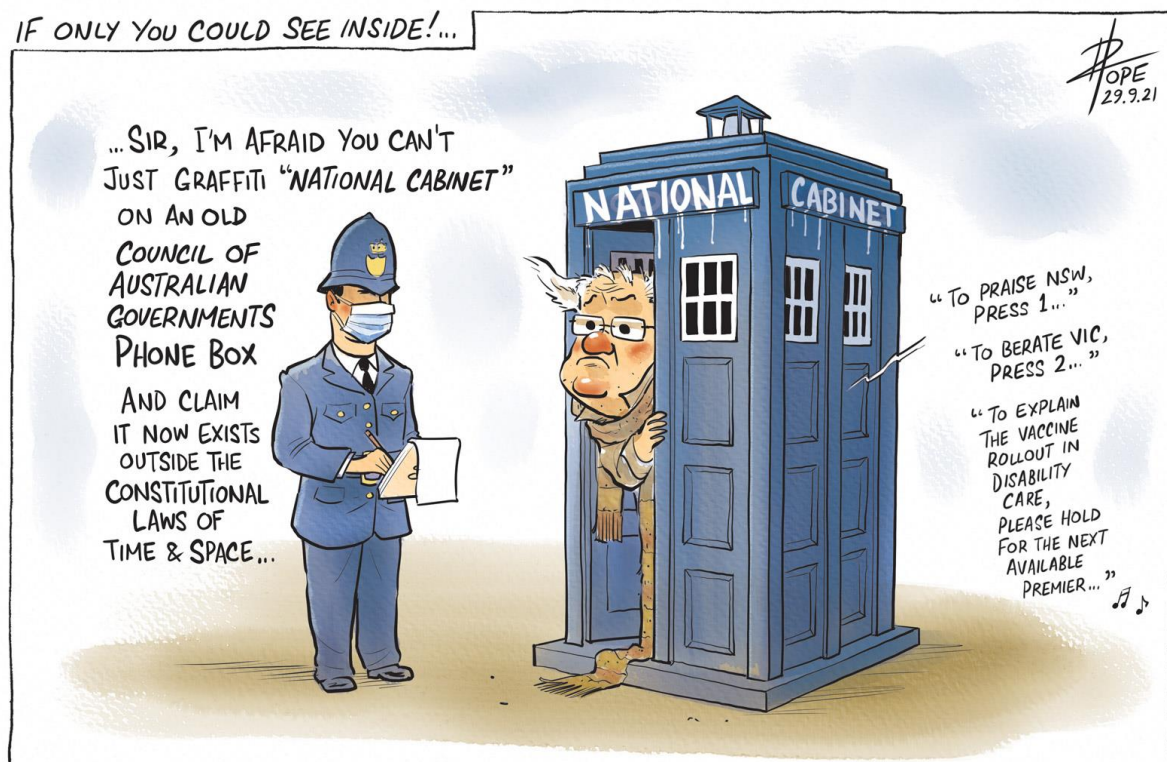
And related to this: **Subjective Economic Inequality Decreases Emotional Intelligence, Especially for People of High Social Class**

“A series of studies published in [Social Psychological and Personality Science](#) found that people of higher socioeconomic status (SES) score consistently lower on tests of emotional intelligence, especially when they perceive high levels of inequality in their community. The researchers suggest that high SES and high subjective inequality promotes increased self-focus and less motivation to attend to others’ emotions.” ([reference](#))

This helps explain the behaviour of our political elites.

## DEMOCRACY AS FUN ‘COLLECTION’

IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE INSIDE!...



By David Pope, courtesy Canberra Times.  
Contributions welcome.

*From your committee, with best wishes*

**Contact us:** [secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au)

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