

# Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

G'day members and friends, and a cautious welcome to 2022

In this [Awakening Democracy](#): National #OurDemocracy pre-election survey, planning for 2022, help with DGR application, and lots and lots to read and watch.

## COMING UP

### #OurDemocracy Campaign - National Poll

#### ACT Plan: promoting the survey in Fenner.

As you might have seen from the email traffic over the past couple of weeks, a group recruited via the #OurDemocracy link from the Big Deal documentary has started running with this campaign in the ACT, based in the electorate of Fenner. [An explanatory video about the campaign can be seen here](#). A copy of [the survey can be found here](#). While you are free to fill this in, the current focus is on residents within Fenner.

In the ACT the group is looking to hand out flyers inviting people to take the survey on February 26th, where yet to be decided. In parallel, the group is letterboxing flyers in various suburbs within the Fenner electorate.

If you would like to help letterbox or hand out flyers in the electorate of Fenner (not limited to people living in Fenner), [please contact the Secretary](#). I will put you in contact with the #OurDemocracy group in the ACT. **Thank you to those who have already volunteered.**

**Note this is a parallel project to Active Democracy ACT.** In this election year, lots is happening to awaken democracy.

## ACTIVE PROJECTS

### Active Democracy ACT (ADACT) & Australia (ADAus)

The [new Active Democracy Australia website is live](#) and ADAus is keen to launch it in the near future. Have a look at [the Active Democracy ACT pages](#).

The **Bean group** continues to meet and they would be happy for you to join in. [Contact Cath Blunt](#).

We are happy to help you launch kitchen table conversations in the ACT if you get a small group (6 to 10) together. [Contact us](#).

In Canberra (the electorate), we are looking to work with DemocracyCo on a proposal for a citizens' assembly later after the elections this year. See [DemocracyCo's presentation to DemFest21](#).

If you would like to be notified about Active Democracy or #OurDemocracy activity in your electorate, please [email the Secretary](#) the name of the electorate you are in.

## OTHER ACTIVITY

### Preparing for Donor Gift Recipient (DGR) Status

While charity status helps to access grants from philanthropic sources, DGR will help us attract funding and extend our reach and influence.

**Two asks:**

1. If you have any experience and expertise in DGR status applications, we would be very grateful if [you would get in contact](#) to help us out.
2. As part of the application process, and to help focus our activity, we are writing an **Education Strategy**. Would you be able to help? Again, [please be in contact](#).

## NEW STUFF TO READ AND LOOK AT

DemFest21 [presentations and session are up on line](#) to watch, read and share.

Peter Tait: [Good governance for planetary and the public's health](#).

Lindy Edwards: a precis on [her recent book Corporate power in Australia](#) (and its effects of democracy).

**The ReMAKERS** – [the podcast series of Australia ReMADE](#). Rich ideas such as care as a political act.

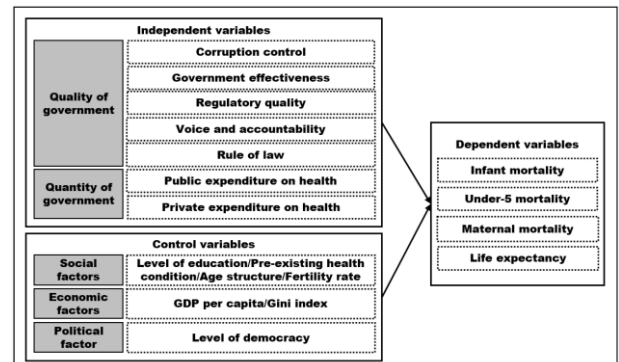
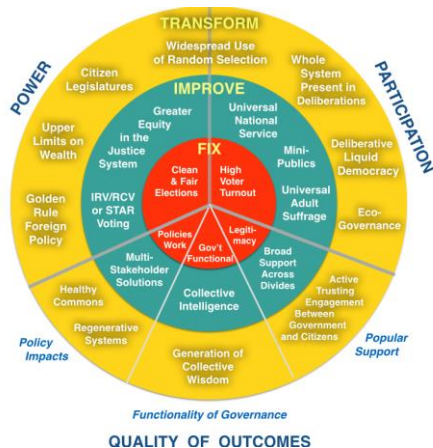
Cam Wilson, Crikey, WebCam: [A brief insight into why conspiracy theorists are almost right](#).

Luca Belgiorno-Nettis and Kyle Redman, 2021, [The A, B and C of Democracy: Or Cats in the Sack](#), how minipublics help revive democracy.

And on ABC RN [Inside the Lines, Is the Australian democracy in crisis?](#)

Australians overwhelmingly find politics to be tribal and combative. How should our leaders deliver long-term decision-making that people can trust? Could a citizen jury be part of the solution? With **Glenn Barnes**, co-chair of Citizens for Democratic Renewal, a group dedicated to better Australian governance and **Luca Belgiorno-Nettis**, newDemocracy.

**Tom Atlee** on [Fix Improve & Transform Democracy](#). A neat model. Links to the [quantity & quality of government](#) discussion.



## [Democracy in decline: Australia's slide into 'competitive authoritarianism'](#)

Australia is at a critical point. A government that would cling to power to impose unpopular policy threatens the very nature of our democracy. **Pearls and Irritations**: [Lucy Hamilton](#) Dec 27, 2021

A newly found Participatory Democracy site: [People Powered](#): a global hub for participatory democracy - the direct participation of community members in making the policy decisions that affect their lives. "... **support for participatory democracy programs**, such as participatory budgeting, participatory policy-making, participatory planning, and citizens' assemblies."

**How can democracy supporters counter autocratization?**

Very pertinent to Australia today. Contemporary autocratization is typically the result of a long sequence of events and gradual processes. How can democratic actors disrupt such autocratization sequences in order to enhance democratic resilience? [This article explains how.](#)

### Labor fails again

In the closing days of parliament in December, the ALP fell into line with the LNP and [passed amendments to the Electoral Act](#) that increase the administrative burden on charities in relation to advocacy during elections and more easily reveals the identity of large donors. For instance, spending caps were halved from \$500,000 to \$250,000. The Electoral Act already carries requirements to ensure transparency for third party in election time advocacy.

All this reduces charities' ability to change the structural determinants of poverty, environment degradation, and improve the quality of government.

### The Common Law initiative.

This intends to help people regain "your freedom from the political party corporate government system." [More here.](#) One proposed mechanism [is citizens' assemblies.](#)

## DEMOCRACY AS FUN 'COLLECTION'



By Cathy Wilcox, December 2021

and David Pope, Canberra Times February 2022

This is going to be a rich year for cartoon comments.

### And have a listen:

\* [Celtic Woman - Sing Out - Live at Slane Castle - Bing video](#) who in part sing:

*"Let your voice be heard....This whole world was meant to be, .....For you as well as me, For humanity,....Sing out, you will be heard".*

Contributions welcome.

*From your committee, with best 2022 wishes*

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

Keep up to date: <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/>

Share ideas: Twitter @CAPADACT

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487360858250888/>

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