

# ***Awakening Democracy***

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

MARCH 2022

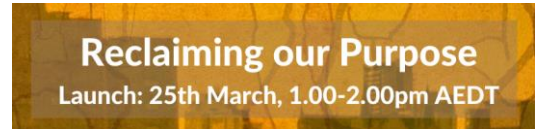
G'day members and friends

In this [\*Awakening Democracy\*](#): We have a federal election coming, Australia Remade launches Reclaiming our Purpose, #Our Democracy ACT is still eliciting opinion in Fenner, votes for 16 year olds, Elections and Activism, and more to read and watch.

## **COMING UP**

### **RECLAIMING OUR PURPOSE**

[RSVP to join us on Friday 25th March](#) 1.00-2.00pm (AEDT) as we launch our practical and values-led framework for leaders navigating perilous times. Free and open to all supporters and friends of Australia remade (includes CAPaD members and supporters).



### **GREENS PARTICIPATORY BUDGET EVENT**

March 27, 12.30-2.30, Polish Club, Turner

This is the launch of the Greens **Public Interest Democracy Fund** policy - a \$2m fund to trial initiatives to encourage more public participation in decision-making.

It will include a participatory public demonstration of how participatory budgeting can work. **You are invited to attend.**

An email with registration details will be sent out when these are available.

## **FEDERAL ELECTION**

### **Candidate Statement**

This federal election we have decided not to run the Candidate Statements. We receive much better coverage and response from candidates in the ACT elections. So we may reserve our energy until 2024.

In the ACT in this election, a lot is happening. The main action is in the Senate with proACT promoting an independent senate candidate to run alongside the major party candidates and the host of minor party and other independents. Watch [their web space](#) and [twitter](#).

Action on climate change and integrity in parliament and government are the two big issues for this election. During the campaign we invite you to think that you are interviewing candidates for a job, the job of representing you in parliament.

### **Voting for stronger democracy**

The [Big Deal](#) upset many people by publicising how our politics is being bought by big donors. Since then, the Australian Democracy Network has released [its report Confronting State Capture](#).

In parallel the **Centre for Public Integrity**, released a [Blueprint to Rein in Money in Politics](#), setting out the following four priority reforms:

- Require real time disclosure of donations over \$1000
- Implement spending caps
- Implement donations caps
- Strengthen enforcement and compliance through the Australian Electoral Commission and a National Integrity Commission.

**For sitting members**, find out what they have done, how they spend, and lots more about them at [Political Gadgets](#). They also have websites. Find information about ACT's electorates via the [Active Democracy ACT](#) webpage.

**New candidates** – well, think of them as potential job applicants. Critically you want to know if elected, **how** are they going to:

- Help you participate in decisions about issues that affect your electorate?
- Let you know what they are doing for you in parliament?

Do they commit to vote for the following priority accountability reforms:

- Require real time disclosure of donations over \$1000
- Implement political donations caps
- Implement election spending caps
- Strengthen enforcement and compliance through the Australian Electoral Commission and a National Integrity Commission
- Legislation to require truth in political advertising?

## ACTIVE PROJECTS

### #OurDemocracy Campaign - National Integrity Survey

#### Fenner ACT survey.

The small group of ACT residents have letterboxed 2500 flyers across the suburbs in Fenner over the past 6 weeks. A couple of people handed out 100 flyers at Gungahlin town centre on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The group is taking a stock take to see where we go to next. [Contact us if you want to help](#).

Thank you to members and those on our email list to have already donated your time and energy.

### 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

### VOTES FOR 16 YEAR OLDS?

The ACT Greens are campaigning for 16 and 17 year olds to vote. CAPaD has not taken on this as an activity due to the complexity of the issue and our own capacity to contribute sensibly.

There are a set of good articles discussing this issue: [in the Canberra Times](#), on [the Greens website](#) and on [Policy Forum Pod: Who decides? The push to lower Australia's voting age](#).

### 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 online](#) to watch, read and share.

### Confronting State Capture

How corporations have eroded our democracy, and what we can do about. [New Australian Democracy Network report](#).

### On Freedom

Freedom (liberty) is one of those concepts with two sides; freedom to (do) and freedom from. Three hundred years of debate (Mill to Burnheim and Pettit) has moved the discourse from individual liberty as freedom from monarchy and state to a more nuanced balance of freedom from and freedom to, with checks and balances. Like democracy it is eternally a work in progress and requires active management to keep the balance. Recent protests calling for freedom have not captured this balance. [Democracy is eroded by selfish, untruthful, often violent individualism. Lessons from John Stuart Mill](#).

### Media

We frequently hear from members and supporters their concerns about the role of the media in Australia's government, undermining our democracy.

Last year GetUp produced a report, [Who controls our media? The impact of media concentration on our democracy](#).

### Elections and Activism

[Topical resource for perspectives on the role of elections as part of social change strategies](#); case studies of past campaigns; guides to different tactics relevant to elections; and tips for maintaining morale and wellbeing on the campaign trail. This guide focuses on the practical skills and tactics of campaigning during elections.

## DEMOCRACY AS FUN 'COLLECTION'

Where to start?



Both from Canberra Times, David Pope.

Current and .....a year ago but still current.

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/>