

## 2021-22 Report on Implementation of the Education Strategy

### Strategic Outcome Domains

Outcome 1 – Government Systems

Outcome 2 – Influences on democracy

Outcome 3 – harnessing the political system

Outcome 4 – reforming the political system

### Outcome Domain 1 – Government Systems

Canberrans and Australians will better understand the government system in Australia including the electoral system, how parliament operates, the role of MPs/parliamentarians, the role of the public service, the different levels of government and their responsibilities.

| Topics  | Activity  | Attendance / Response  | Outputs            | Outcomes           | Comments   |
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| <b>Background topics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how the current Australian government system really works</li> <li>• how politicians and MPs can spend and distribute public money</li> <li>• how laws are created and made into law</li> <li>• a new political system is possible and people power can make it happen</li> </ul> | Provide information on the Resource Hub, updating this as possible. | Difficult to measure apart from visits to the Resource Hub; 334 in 2021-22 (compared to 137 in 2020-21). | Unable to measure. | Unable to measure. | This is a relatively passive process; we put out new content to our email list, Twitter followers and Facebook friends, and put links in our newsletter. |



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| <p><b>Models of governance and democracy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous governance models and how they influence democracy</li> <li>• Democratic Governance models</li> </ul>  | <p>Provide information on the Resource Hub</p>   |  |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Electoral systems used in Australia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal parliament - the senate and House of Representatives systems</li> <li>• State and Territory parliaments</li> <li>• Local government</li> </ul> | <p>Provide information on the Resource Hub. For the 2022 federal election we ran a campaign explaining how to use the preferential system; placed 2 advertisements in a local paper drawing attention to our 2022 Election site.</p> | <p>368 views of the webpage.<br/>2 advertisements – unable to measure how many paid attention to them.</p> | <p>Resources developed for the election added to the Resources Hub.</p> |  | <p>The focus this year was on the federal election. Comments and questions about voting alerted us to the low level of understanding by voters of how the process works despite good AEC resources.</p> |

## Outcome Domain 2 – Influences on democracy

Canberrans and Australians will be able to identify the factors that influence effective democracy, in particular the role of these elements on influencing democracy and government:

- elected representatives
- political parties
- independent representatives



- local electorate community groups
- unelected players with power and money.

| Topics   | Activity  | Attendance / Response   | Outputs | Outcomes | Comments |
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| <p><b>How community can organise to exert their own power into the political system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The triangle of democracy – government, civil society and community organisations</li> <li>• Lobbying and advocacy – individual and as a community</li> <li>• Models of working with your parliamentarians</li> <li>• Petitions and letters</li> <li>• The role of civil society</li> </ul> | <p>Provide information on the Resource Hub.</p> <p>Working with Active Democracy Australia to develop their website, which is a toolkit to help voters and community organise to work better with their MP.</p> | <p>Visits as above.</p> <p>ADAus regularly measures site visits and contacts received from the website.</p> |         |          |          |
| <p><b>How people can be influenced to vote against their own interests</b></p> <p><i>Media</i></p>   |   |   |         |          |          |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the influence of the media and the goals of media ownership has on democracy</li> <li>• how the media makes choices about what stories and narratives are told</li> <li>• how the human brain reacts to different stories and how this influences the stories media tells</li> </ul> <p><i>Political Parties</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how parties and independents influence democracy</li> </ul> <p><i>Business and Organisations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the influence of the think tanks, lobbyists and who sponsors them has on democracy</li> <li>• the influence of the people who have power and money have on democracy</li> <li>• how the role of public institutions including the public service</li> </ul> | <p>Promoted the documentary The Big Deal to members; held a zoom event to facilitate people to reflect on this. Supported the Australian Democracy Network's #OurDemocracy campaign in the ACT by emailing supporters and working with the ACT #OurDemocracy group.</p> | <p>Unable to measure how many watched the Big Deal.<br/>15 attendees at the zoom event.</p> <p>Engaged with 8 ACT #OurDemocracy supporters; spoke to hundreds of people handing out flyers for the national survey.</p> | <p>Overlapped with our election campaign. Difficult to quantify the response; 468 survey responses received from the ACT.</p> |  | <p>Not previously a focus for us.</p> <p>Not previously an active focus.</p> <p>Encouraging our members and supporters to watch the Big Deal and participate in the reflection was within our current capacity. We have approached Craig Reucassel with ideas for a follow up documentary on electorate level</p> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can be compromised or undermined by people with power and money</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |  | <p>mobilisation with no success.</p>  |
| <p><b>How good government and democracy can be undermined or strengthened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how popularism works</li> <li>• how deliberative democracy works to influence democracy</li> <li>• how public figures can use the media to undermine the integrity of public institutions that protect and strengthen democracy</li> <li>• how laws can be made impotent or ineffective</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  | <p>A new topic for us to look at.</p> |

## Outcome Domain 3 – harnessing the political system

Canberrans and Australians will develop skills in harnessing the political system collectively in communities and electorates to engage their MPs effectively in working for the public good at the local and national levels.

| Topics   | Activity                                 | Attendance / Response | Outputs | Outcomes | Comments |
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| <p><b>Skills for active citizens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how collective wise decision-making works</li> </ul> | <p>Information in the Resources Hub.</p> |                       |         |          |          |



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| <p>and how collective ignorant decision-making works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how people can learn critical thinking to determine their own reasoning on contested views</li> </ul>   | <p>Develop the Genuine Evaluation Tool for community groups to assess the quality of government consultations.</p>   | <p>Unable to measure.</p>   | <p>Tool available on the website.</p>   |  | <p>Developed over a few years previously from interaction with the Centre for Deliberative Democracy at Canberra University. Published this year and being promoted.</p> |
| <p><b>Helping your MP work for you</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what is the role of the MP</li> <li>• what an MP can do for their community</li> <li>• Being clear on the level of government to approach</li> <li>• how communities can work with their MP</li> <li>• how communities can hold their MP accountable</li> </ul> | <p>Information in the Resources Hub.</p> <p>Held DemFest21 in November 2021, a national zoom event to showcase electorate / community democracy activity in Australia.</p> <p>Working with Active Democracy Australia and promoting their website and process through publications and our newsletter.</p> <p>Supporting an Active Democracy group in the ACT.</p> <p>Working with local MP Alicia Payne and</p> | <p>Difficult to measure.</p> <p>31 registrants from all across Australia, 23 submitted presentations for pre-reading across the week prior, and 13 actual presenters and many group conversations on the weekend.</p> <p>6 active participants.</p> <p>Only just beginning.</p> | <p>Active Democracy Aus website and toolkit.</p> <p>Just being established this year.</p> | <p>Group operating; experiential learning.</p> | <p>The major focus of our work this year.</p>  |

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|  | DemocracyCo on a Forum for the electorate of Canberra. |  |  |  |  |
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### Outcome Domain 4 – reforming the political system

Canberrans and Australians will develop knowledge and skills in in effectively reforming the political system so that it effectively delivers for the public good.

| Topics  | Activity  | Attendance / Response | Outputs | Outcomes | Comments                           |
|---|---|-----------------------|---------|----------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Making good government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how to bring Australian Indigenous governance models into improving Australian democracy</li> <li>• the role of public institutions that protect and strengthen democracy</li> </ul> | Promoting the #OurDemocracy campaign and the Australian Democracy Network’s Framework Fair Democracy. | See above.            |         |          | Linked with our election campaign. |
| <b>Consolidating political change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutionalising reforms</li> </ul>  | Promoting the #OurDemocracy campaign and the Australian Democracy Network’s Framework Fair Democracy. |                       |         |          |                                    |

# CAPaD - *Awakening* Democracy

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy



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| <b>Theories and processes of change</b> | Information in the Resources Hub. |  |  |  |  |
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