

## What have we learned from the 2022 Election?

**Zoom Event: 18 September @ 14:00 AEST**

Eight new community independents join Helen Haines and Andrew Wilkie in the House of Representatives, making a crossbench of 16, with Bob Katter, Rebekah Sharkie and four Greens, while independents David Pocock and (ex-UAP) Ralph Babet join the two Jackie Lambie Network, two One Nation and 12 Green senators on the Senate crossbench.

The purpose of this Zoom event was to:

- reflect on what important things happened and share learning insights from the May federal election
- identify what is important in strengthening democracy in our places and the ACT
- explore where do we go from here: How does this change politics in the Australian Parliament? What opportunities does it present us?

This reflection is one of a series of discussions to inform how CAPaD implements its Education Strategy over the next 12 months.

Key points from the discussion included:

- Many factors influenced the election result:
  - Dissatisfaction with bad government in general and political parties in particular.
  - It's too early to say definitely what it means and whether this translates into a longer term shift in the electorate.
- More analysis into why people changed their vote is required.
- Two phases for the relationship between candidates and voters exist; pre and post election.
  - Pre-election, the focus is on connecting candidates and voters, helping undecided voters get to know candidates and helping candidates inform undecided voters. It was agreed that the undecided voter is the focus audience for activity during the campaign. This is the stage where voters can elect the candidate who will best represent them.
  - Providing truthful and balanced information was critical; the Voteeasy process is one way of doing this.
  - Compulsory voting grabs many voters attention in this phase.
  - Post-election, systems and infrastructure to maintain community MP connections such as kitchen table conversation models and the proposed Canberra Forum citizens assemble are necessary.

This lead o these ideas about what CAPaD might do:

Continue to promote kitchen table conversations in the ACT, as is happening through the Active Democracy ACT processes especially in Bean.

Use the Canberra Forum process to create a kit that other communities can use for connecting with their MPs.

Look at the informed but undecided or unpersuaded voter, who is curious about who would best represent them/ their interests, as the key constituency for activity during an election campaign period to help them learn what serves their best interests on policy issues that interest them but more importantly to help them learn their own capacity to shape the world for the public and their own good.

Create a set of critical thinking tools that people can use.

Realise there are at least two pathways:

Where people are happy with their MP and where they are not. Different strategies are open to community groups for managing this. Active Democracy Australia is working in this space.

Each requires a different approach.

The video of the event is here.

<https://youtu.be/9yQg2W3OCgc>