

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

OCTOBER 2022

G'day members, supporters and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#), Future directions for CAPaD Zoom, update on the Canberra Forum and more to read and watch.

COMING UP

CAPaD's future activity focus

23 October @ 14:00 AEST

You are warmly invited to a conversation about the focus of future activity for CAPaD in the context of more overtly moving to being an education charity.

Purpose:

To explore members views about the reasons for and implications of:

- establishing the Awakening Democracy Foundation to receive tax deductible donations for educational charity purposes;
- consequent key word changes in the objects in the CAPaD constitution (as per AGM proposal) from government to parliament, or some other wording, so that the objectives reflect our current focus;
- scope other possible constitutional changes to reflect our evolving activity focus; and
- members being involved in various action learning projects bringing democracy to the people

To register [click on this link](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Preparation:

To prepare for this conversation please read the documents available at the links embedded:

1. The [Education Strategy](#) and the [2022 Report against the Strategy](#) to give you background,
2. [A discussion paper outlining the reasoning for changing the constitutional objectives](#),
3. The list of current possible education and experiential learning projects and key tools CAPaD seeks to promote [in the Implementation Plan](#). NOTE: even if you cannot attend the zoom, all feedback and suggestions for improving the Plan will be gratefully accepted.

Future Zoom events – [listed in our Events Calendar](#).

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Active Democracy ACT (ADACT) & Australia (ADAus)

Active Democracy Bean has resumed meeting. If you are interested in joining, please [email Cath](#). The [webpage](#) has been recently updated.

The Active Democracy ACT [site is here](#).

Canberra Forum

The Canberra Forum is a citizens' assembly, initially to be run over 2023, with about 40 Canberrans randomly selected from the electoral roll to be involved. These participants will together identify two topics that they from a survey of all possible participants. The Forum will deliberate on these topics and report to Alicia on the outcomes. Alicia has committed to acting on the reports.

We are working with Alicia Payne and DemocracyCo to see what our role with the Canberra Forum might be. This might be helping to orient observers and reflecting on the process, using our Genuine Engagement Tool.

A major outcome is to have a toolkit prepared so that other MPs and electorates can set up similar assemblies.

Please [email the Secretary](#) if you are interested in helping out.

Education 4 Civics

Interest in this topic has come up repetitively since the election. CAPaD is working up a project on this, perhaps as a submission to for a philanthropic grant.

If you would like to be involved, [get in touch please](#).

OTHER ACTIVITY

Activating Charity Status – going for DGR

We missed the deadline for this November, so aim to submit in time for the 2023 Budget.

The Awakening Democracy Foundation Public Fund is being set up. If you would like to be one of the Public Fund Committee members, please [email the Secretary](#). The Fund Committee is responsible for overseeing the expenditure of Fund moneys. Fund Committee members need to fit into the following categories: “church authorities, school principals, judges, clergymen, solicitors, doctors, and other professional persons, mayors, councillors, town clerks and members of parliament.” (Treasury website).

THINGS TO READ AND LISTEN TO

Embedding Citizen Participation

Report on an Open Government peer exchange workshop to share experiences and learn from efforts to embed citizen participation in government. [Five Tips For Weaving Citizen Participation Into The Fabric of Government \(opengovpartnership.org\)](#). The is [a link to a list of what activities](#) they found across the countries involved. They seek more examples.

Unsurprising, a key finding is that these processes need to be institutionalised into government processes.

See also our [Genuine Engagement Tool](#) for assessing the quality of government engagement.

What kind of Republic?

Klass Woldring scopes out some ideas for not just an Australian head of state (if one at all) but what other constitutional and governance changes might be possible. [Pearls and Irritations: What kind of Republic?](#)
A very broad rethink of Australian governance is possible.

Have a penchant to dive deeply into Elections?

The site author, Malcolm Baalman, is “interested in the interaction of the theory and practice of political science, the mechanics of voting methods, and the constitutional law surrounding elections and parliaments. Writing on this site is my outlet for these interests.”

[Have a look here](#).

From your committee

Contact us: secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au

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Share ideas: [Twitter](#) @CAPADACT

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The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy