

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

G'day members, supporters and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#), Active Democracy Bean events, The Canberra Forum launches, Tech Supporting Democracy, Awakening Democracy Foundation progress, seeking funds and help, our future focusses, ... and more to read and watch.



COMING UP

The festive season. Best wishes from your CAPaD Committee for the holiday period and the new year.

Future Zoom events – [listed in our Events Calendar](#). More are in the planning stage.

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Active Democracy ACT (ADACT) & Australia (ADAus)

Active Democracy Bean is holding conversations with people in Bean on the Voice to Parliament referendum. The [webpage](#) has been recently updated and a report of recent conversations is also available there. If you are interested in joining, please [email Cath](#).

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



The **Canberra Forum** is now underway with an introductory session held on November 26th, to introduce the 40 participants to Alicia and the DemocracyCo team, and each other, and brief them on how they came to be chosen and what is planned for next year.

The timetable for next year is:

- Sat 4th February 2023, 12:30-5:30pm (Venue TBC)
- Mon 20th March 2023, 5:00pm-8:00pm (Online session)
- Sat 25th March 2023, 1:00pm-5:30pm (Venue TBC)
- Mon 24th April 2023, 5:00pm-8:00pm (Online session)
- Sat 29th April 2022, 1:00pm-5:30pm (Venue TBC)

Information is available from [Alicia Payne's website](#).

CAPaD's role is to brief, support and marshal observers; we are titled Observer Concierges.

Observers are invited to come along and see the Forum in action. We have six people who have already expressed interest. If you want to be an actual observer – [here is a link](#).

Please [email the Secretary](#) if you are interested in observing or concierging.

Tech Supporting Democracy

An initial zoom seminar was held on November 16th. Twenty one people attend to listen to Alex Beyer (VoteCompass) Sean Johnson (Open Politics) talk about their respective projects. [Further information and a link to the video](#) is available at Active Democracy Australia.

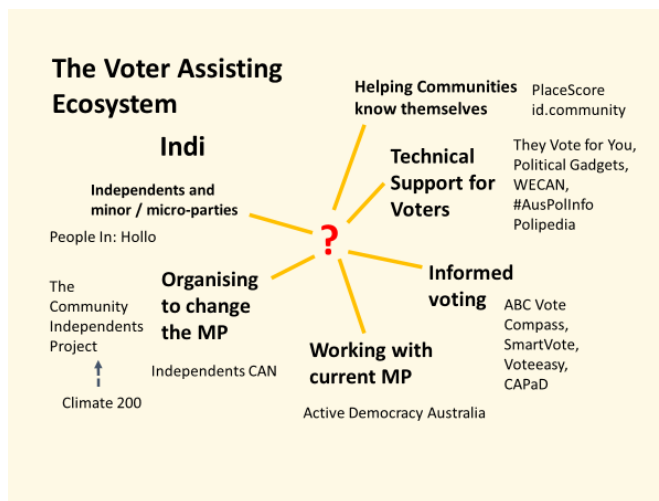
There is a rich ecosystem of organisations in Australia whose aim is to assist voters choose quality candidates and support keeping MPs accountable. See figure.

Awakening Democracy Foundation

The Deductible Gift Recipient application is nearly ready to go. We will know mid-year if this has been successful, although we are warned that it can take several years. Here's hoping.

Project Funding Application

We have submitted an application for funding a **Keeping them honest – MP Accountability** project to Perpetual Trustees for an Impact Grant. If we are successful, we will need help from people with employer and / or HR backgrounds to advise on these matters.



OTHER ACTIVITY

CAPaD's future activity focus

Report back (23rd October Zoom)

The move to an education focus confirmed where CAPaD had need headed already. Deductible gift recipient status is an opportunity to be pursued to help build capacity. No one clear project emerged as being where our biggest leverage point is, although education around civics for schools and the general public has advantages. There was both support and concerns with a national focus. Several ideas for revising the constitution were put forward and will be pursued next year. The idea of a name change was vetoed.

THINGS TO READ AND LISTEN TO

Just a reminder about the **Democracy Sausage podcast** from the ANU Public Policy Institute (on a podcast service near you). Lots of very topical topics.

The articles that kicked off the Collective Impact movement are [Collective Impact](#) and [Channeling Change – Making Collective Impact Work](#). A great deal has been written since then. They worked for US non-profit consulting firm FSG, and I think the systems change language came from a later article they wrote with Peter Senge called [The Water of Systems Change](#).

[John Austin](#), the director of the Michigan Economic Center, and [Elaine Dezenski](#), senior director and head of the Center on Economic and Financial Power at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies; [Democracy needs a new sales pitch](#).

The Remakers podcast. Australia ReMADE's podcast has had a fascinating series of discussions and interviews over the past few months and is well worth a listen. Available from your favourite podcast service.

From your committee with seasons festive wishes

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

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