



Participant Briefing Pack

The Canberra Forum

November 2022



Acknowledgement

democracyCo's work is undertaken on the lands of Australia's First Nations People.

For millennia, you as the ancestors have been guardians of this Country and we deeply respect and acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.

As we collaborate together, democracyCo will look to Australia's First Nations people, the world's oldest living culture, for guidance that will help sustain our connection to Country and inform the work that we do to bring people together.

Our work is in service to Reconciliation and to moving forward together.

We acknowledge that we have much work to do.

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Welcome from democracyCo

We are delighted to welcome you to The Canberra Forum as a participant.

We welcome your energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to participating in this process. This process is the first of its kind in Australia – so you are the start of something which we hope will be adopted by many MP’s across the country as they look for ways to strengthen Australia’s system of representative democracy.

This pack contains important information about The Canberra Forum, the process you are a part of, and about your program of work.

Emily, Emma, Leah & Kerry



Welcome from Alicia

Engaging with and listening to the constituents we represent is fundamental to the work of a member of parliament, and it's one of my favourite parts of the job.

But I often worry about those in our community who are less likely to seek me out or take opportunities to engage and so are less likely to be heard.

That's why I have partnered with DemocracyCo to establish The Canberra Forum, an ongoing deliberative panel to allow Canberrans to participate more fully in the democratic process.

I've been interested in deliberative democracy since doing a course on community consultation at university, so now I'm an MP I'm very excited to be able to put it into practice for my electorate.

Deliberative democracy is about giving participants the opportunity to consider a range of information, engage more deeply with the help of experts, and discuss issues in forming their views.

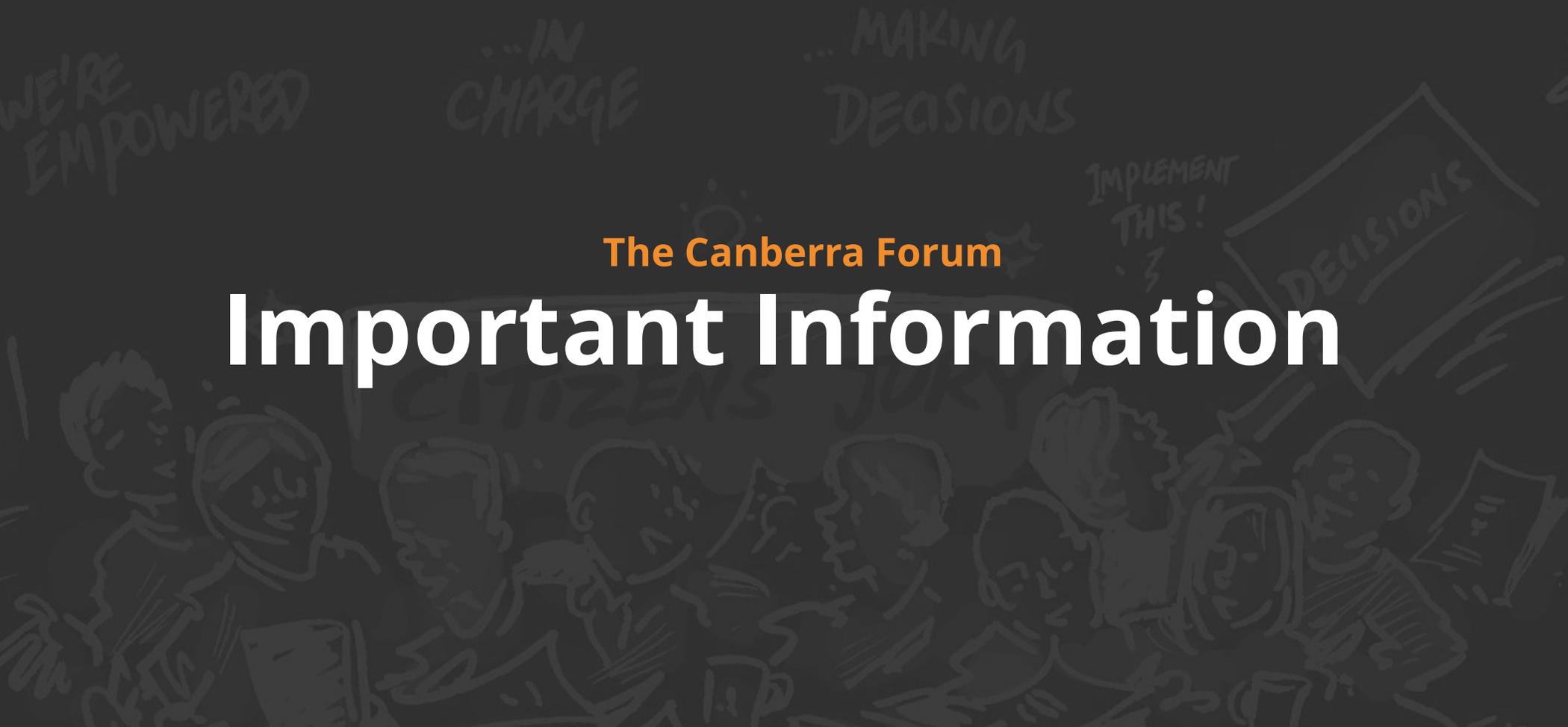
I look forward to the discussions we'll have on the Canberra Forum!



Alicia

The Canberra Forum

Important Information



Session Details

The Canberra Forum will meet on the following dates/times:

- **Sat 26th Nov 2022, 2-4pm (Parliament House)**
- **Sat 4th Feb 2022, 12:30-5:30pm (Venue TBC)**
- **Mon 20th March 2022, 5:00pm-8:00pm (Online session)**
- **Sat 25th March 2022, 1:00pm-5:30pm (Venue TBC)**
- **Mon 24th April 2022, 5:00pm-8:00pm (Online session)**
- **Sat 29th April 2022, 1:00pm-5:30pm (Venue TBC)**



Key Contact

Primary contact: Kerry Reed

kerry@democracyco.com.au

Ph: 0408 086 576



Session 1 at Parliament House

Session 1, 26th November 2022 from 2-4pm

Room 1R1
Parliament House of Australia
Parliament Dr
Canberra, ACT



You must bring photo ID (drivers licence, passport) to enter Parliament House.

We will have passes for you in the entrance hall, and Alicia or one of her team members will meet you there.

Dress Code: Smart Casual

Getting there

We recommend you plan to arrive at least 20mins early, to make your way through the entry process.

Parking

You can park in the Forecourt Basement car park. Accessible spaces are near the lifts. The carpark will cost \$7 for anything over 1hr on a weekend. You may be able to find free on street parking close to Old Parliament House, a short walk.

Taxi or ride share

There are separate taxi ranks and ride share bays in the Forecourt Basement car park.

Bus

Bus stops are on Federation Mall, about 200 metres from the public entrance. For your local bus timetable, visit [Transport Canberra](#).

Bike

Bike racks are in the Forecourt Basement car park. Bikes cannot be brought into Parliament House.

For more detailed information about visiting Parliament House [click here](#).

Emily & Emma (from democracyCo) and Sonia (from Sortition Foundation) are unable to be with you in the room on the first day – so you will meet us virtually!

We look forward to meeting you at our first main session in February.

Forms for completion

Before the 26th November

Pre-Survey: [Click here](#) or use the QR code

A central part of this process is learning along the way from you, about your experience.

We want to understand what works and what doesn't – so that we can determine whether The Forum is useful and / or if it can be improved (and how it can be improved).

We think this method could fundamentally change how representative democracy works – but this is the first time we are trialing it. We know we won't get it perfect the first time. We are hoping that members of the Forum will help us in understanding what works and what doesn't so we can hone it, improve it and build on it. To this end, we will ask you to complete a series of surveys along the way. We have made these as short and as simple as possible and would value your completion of this pre-survey as a priority. It will give us a baseline of how you are tracking before we start, that we can then compare to – and better understand how the process changes your trust and confidence in your local MP and in our democracy.

To do on our first day

Photography and Media Release Form – Due on the first day

You will find attached with this email a **Photography and Media Release Form**. Please complete this form and provide either via email **before or at registration at the first workshop**. We will also have copies for you on the day. We encourage for those people who are not comfortable to have their image shared, to complete this form expressing those wishes so we can accommodate those preferences.



What do I do if I can't make a session?

If you are unable to attend a session, please let us know as soon as possible.

Before a session:

Contact Kerry on 0408 086 576 or email kerry@democracyco.com.au

On the day of a session:

In you know you will be late or cannot make a workshop on the day, please contact Kerry as soon as practical.

Supporting you

Please let us know at any time if there is anything you need to support your participation in this process. We are here for you, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

COVID19

COVID19

Due to the rising number of cases in our community again, we recommend you wear a mask at our workshops and practice hygiene protocol using hand sanitiser etc..

We also ask that if you are feeling unwell, that you remain home and do not attend the workshop at the time you feel unwell and let us know that you will not be attending as soon as possible.

Your cooperation with this is appreciated, to help to stop further infections and protect those more vulnerable in our community.



The background is a dark grey color with a faint, hand-drawn illustration of a crowd of diverse people. Overlaid on this are several phrases in a light grey, handwritten font: 'WE'RE EMPOWERED' on the left, '...IN CHARGE' in the upper middle, '... MAKING DECISIONS' in the upper right, and 'IMPLEMENT THIS!' on the right side. A large, tilted rectangular shape on the right contains the word 'DECISIONS' written vertically.

The Canberra Forum

About The Canberra Forum

Context of The Canberra Forum

The Canberra Forum is the first trial of a new initiative which brings together community members with their local MP enabling them to actively participate in democracy between elections.

Facilitated by democracyCo utilising a deliberative approach, The Canberra Forum is meeting over 20+ hours over a 6-month period. They will work together with MP Alicia Payne to provide their collective advice and recommendations on key issues to Canberrans.

Recruitment of 40 local community members for the Forum has been undertaken independently by The Sortition Foundation – the aim being to select a group that is diverse inline with key demographics for the electorate.

Using an electorate wide survey and a survey of people who are randomly selected, the Forum will determine which issues are of significance to their community. They will hear from experts on their chosen issues and then deliberate to form a series of recommendations back to Alicia Payne MP.



Websites of interest
[Alicia Payne's website](#)
[democracyCo's website](#)



Why is democracyCo trialing The Canberra Forum?



Our democracy faces a significant risk due to a lack of trust in politicians, governments, and institutions and an increasingly polarised community.

The combination of these phenomena is making substantial reform by governments very difficult and creating risks to our system of democracy.

This process is a trial to see whether deliberative democracy, commonly used by governments, can also be used by local representatives to enhance Australia's system of representative democracy.

This project will be an Australian first and it is hoped that it will set a precedent for other Members of Parliament to follow.

Did you know?

Both **DemocracyCo** and **The Sortition Foundation** are conducting this process for free (we are not being paid by Alicia!), such is our commitment to trialling this process as a way to strengthen Australia's representative democracy. This includes our time and all our travel to Canberra (democracyCo is SA based).

Also, a local group of volunteers interested in helping community participate in democracy **The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy (CAPAD)** are helping evaluate the process also for free, and supporting observers to watch your work.



democracyCo

The Sortition Foundation is a not-for-profit company dedicated to promoting fair, transparent, inclusive and effective deliberative assemblies. They have conducted the recruitment process to find you and the rest of the participants – a diverse sample of the Canberra population.

The Canberra Forum at a glance



Your task

Together, you will explore the following remit:

What are the most important problems or opportunities for Canberrans and how could they be addressed?

The Commitment

Alicia is committed to this project and pledges to pursue action in respect of the Forum's recommendations. This will involve her:

- **making representations to the Federal Parliament about the Forum's work.**
- **advocating for our community through the Federal Labor Party Caucus.**
- **publishing the Forum's advice on her website - in full and unchanged; and,**
- **writing to the relevant Minister/s to advise them of the views of my electorate on specific recommendations.**

Overview of Sessions

The below gives you a sense of what each session will include. As a facilitated process, our sessions together will be highly engaging and fun. We will work in various ways – as a whole group, in small groups, learning, deliberating and making decisions together.

Session 1

Meet and Greet – getting to know each other and Alicia.

Hearing from Alicia and democracyCo about why they are running this project.

Hearing from Sortition Foundation about recruitment.

Learning more about Alicia's role.

Afternoon Tea from about 3pm

Session 2 Face to Face

Agenda Setting

Hearing the results from the Community Survey and making sense of what the Community thinks is most important.

Choosing the topics which The Forum wants to deliberate on (ie 2) and identifying which experts you want to hear from to learn more.

Session 3 Online

Topic 1

Online (and available to be watched by the public)

We will hear from experts and you will have an opportunity to quiz them about the topic.

Deliberation will commence.

Session 4 Face to Face

Topic 1

Deliberation and consensus work on the recommendations for Alicia.

CoWriting recommendations

Session 5 Online

Topic 2

Online (and available to be watched by the public)

We will hear from experts and you will have an opportunity to quiz them about the topic.

Deliberation will commence.

Session 6 Face to Face

Topic 2

Deliberation and consensus work on the recommendations for Alicia.

CoWriting recommendations

If needed..

You may want to spend some extra time 'writing' your report, finessing it and getting it ready for publication.

We could do this online – and those who are keen to be involved could participate

Session 1: Meet and Greet

Session 1, on the 26th November, is a simple meet and greet session.

The session begins at 2pm in Committee Room 1R1 at Parliament House.

The focus of this session is for you to meet with Alicia for the first time – and get to understand more about her aspirations for the process. She will also host you for afternoon tea.

The agenda for the day includes:

1. A formal welcome by Alicia
2. A brief welcome from democracyCo – unfortunately we won't be with you in person, but will be dialling in from SA – so you will meet Emma virtually. Your facilitator, Emily, won't be there – as she is facilitating a citizens' jury in SA that same day – but you will meet her on your first full session in February.
 - This will also include a welcome from Dr Sonia Randhawa from The Sortition Foundation – who will explain how you were recruited to be a participant.
 - The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy will also say hello – and give you a short overview of their role.
1. Alicia will also explain a little more about her role as an MP

Afternoon tea will be served at around 3.15pm – and you will have an opportunity to meet others and mingle.

We then don't meet again until the 4th February 2023, but we will be in touch with you over the Xmas break.



What to expect about how we will be working

You are participating in a collaborative process where you will be working with a diverse group of your fellow Canberrans to provide collective advice to Alicia.

You will be supported by our facilitation team, who will help to ensure that the sessions will be positive, productive, engaging and even fun!

In addition, we will ensure you have the information that you need. We will bring in experts – most of whom you will choose yourselves – to make sure that you have all the information you need to help you make decisions.



Your team – facilitators and support staff



Emily Jenke
Facilitator & CoCEO



Emma Fletcher
CoCEO



Kerry Reed
Facilitator



Leah Bullivant
Primary Contact



Our Social Media Handles

[Alicia Payne MP Facebook](#)

[democracyCo Facebook](#)



Your privacy

DemocracyCo value your privacy and are committed to managing your personal information appropriately and securely. Our

[Privacy Policy is found here.](#)

Your personal information will be retained by us for the duration of the project and for a period from completion of the project as deemed relevant for business and client purposes. Occasionally clients request information for historical data regarding community member details, to which CoCEO's review on a case-by-case basis the requirements of the release of information. EJO

Talking about the process with others on social media etc

This is an open transparent process and should you wish, we encourage you to share with your family and friends via social media. This can create more awareness and conversation about the process you are participating in – and help others participate in improving our democracy.

Slide 19

EJO Not sure how they want to tackle this...
Emily Jenke, 2022-11-11T01:28:14.871

EFO 0 Lets send this as a draft and ask them
Emma Fletcher, 2022-11-14T03:38:24.427

The background is a dark grey color with a faint, hand-drawn illustration of a diverse crowd of people. The people are depicted in various poses, some looking towards the center, others looking away. There are also several phrases written in a light grey, hand-drawn font scattered across the background. These phrases include "WE'RE EMPOWERED", "...IN CHARGE", "... MAKING DECISIONS", and "IMPLEMENT".

About democracyCo & deliberative engagement

Why we do what we do

Our world is facing some of the greatest challenges that humankind has ever seen, and our need for innovation and change is more acute than ever before.

But change cannot happen without consensus, and governments cannot achieve change alone. Real, sustained change demands the support, expertise and united action of communities, industry and government - together.

In Australia and overseas, we are seeing rapidly declining levels of trust in our institutions: polarised factions who feel disenfranchised, disconnected and locked out of the decision-making process. We find ourselves in a state of consensus gridlock, meaning that many of the reforms our world so desperately need don't even get off the start line.

There is an urgent need to restore trust in public decision-making and leverage the combined expertise of communities, industry and government - so we can start to break the consensus gridlock and move towards positive change.

Together we are more

DemocracyCo is a world-renowned team with a proven track record in using democratic engagement to guide governments and stakeholders and engage and mobilize communities.

Our work offers a way to create sustainable solutions to complex problems: solutions that empower the community, align the diverse needs of individuals, governments and organisations, and give governments real, evidence-based solutions that help them to answer some of the big questions that face our world today.

What is Deliberative Engagement

Our approach is supported by the six key elements of deliberative engagement which, when used in combination, create sustainable, equitable and appropriate solutions to complex problems.

FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION



Be clear about what you want to achieve and who to involve. Seek to deeply understand the context to design the most appropriate process.



Go slow to go fast and start together. Complex issues take time and you can't 'bring people along' if you only involve them at the end!



Without having an upfront commitment about the influence their work will have on the final decision, citizens' and stakeholders simply won't turn up!

SEEK DIVERSITY



Access the 'spectrum of views' and ensure all impacts and consequences are considered and understood. Get beyond the squeaky wheels, the loud voices and those who are already engaged.

BUILD UNDERSTANDING



Support people to interrogate information critically and alert people to the biases they bring. Enable discourse with high levels of participation, content, and respect.

RECONCILE DISPARATE VIEWS



Start from an open question or problem, so people can have room to move toward a constructive, rational conversation.