

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

FEBRUARY 2023

G'day members, supporters and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#), The Canberra Forum underway, Active Democracy Bean events, Tech Supporting Democracy, 2023 activity plan, more variations on citizen participation ... and more to read and watch.

COMING UP

Tech Supporting Democracy

Save the date: February 15, at 1830pm, next tech supporting democracy event. Details to follow separately.

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

ACTIVE PROJECTS



The **Canberra Forum** first session was on February 4th.

The timetable for the year is:

Sat 4th February 2023, 12:30-5:30pm (Anne Harding Centre ↓)

Mon 20th March 2023, 5:00pm-8:00pm (Online session)

Sat 25th March 2023, 1:00pm-5:30pm (Anne Harding Centre C ↓)

Mon 24th April 2023, 5:00pm-8:00pm (Online session)

Sat 29th April 2022, 1:00pm-5:30pm (Anne Harding Centre ↓)

Venue details: Ann Harding Conference Centre is Building 24, on University of Canberra, Bruce campus, University Drive South.

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

A citizens' assembly / panel / mini-public is one of the methods for democratic participation. Observers are invited to come along and see the Forum in action. Please [email us](#) if you want to observe.

Active Democracy ACT (ADACT) & Australia (ADAus)

This year **Active Democracy Bean** (ADB) is focussing on strengthening the quality of community conversations leading up to the referendum on the First Nations Voice to Parliament. If you would like to deepen your own knowledge of what is being proposed, we suggest looking at the [From the Heart website](#), which has accessible and clear educational material. Please share with your friends and family.

If you already support the constitutional change and want to engage the community on the issues involved, consider signing up to be a [volunteer](#) with From the Heart or to run a Kitchen Table Conversation (KTC), called [Together, Yes](#). This is being devised by the Victorian Women's Trust (some will remember Mary Crooks who did the See Change KTC training many years ago) who are working closely with From the Heart. The programme will be launched in February.

Contact Cath or Jane at activedemocracypbean@canberra-alliance.org.au for any support or further information.

More about ADB on their [webpage](#). If you are interested in joining, please [email Cath](#).

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

OTHER ACTIVITY

2022-25 Strategic Priorities and 2023 Activity Plan

Objectives	2022-25 Strategic priorities	2023 Activity
Develop and support citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have many communities actively participating in electorate level democracy by supporting, promoting and trialling different engagement models, for example, Active Democracy electorate groups and citizens assemblies. 	Continue support to expand reach and influence of Active Democracy Australia. Collect and promote learnings from the Canberra Forum.
Stimulate and facilitate opportunities for citizen and community input to government deliberation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above and below. 	
Develop and assist citizen and community capacity to hold government more directly accountable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build community capacity to hold MPs accountable. Contribute to an Education for Civics project to support teaching Civics and Citizenship in the National Curriculum and provide accessible resources for the general public about the electoral system. 	Run the Keeping them honest project. With other voter-assistance organisations, develop a candidate voter interface for use in the 2024 ACT election and the next federal election. Promote the Resource Hub and GETool. Organise a meeting of interested people to scope out an action plan. Prepare funding submission.
Advance education to inspire people to contribute to strengthening democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build organisational capacity by employing staff to extend our influence and run projects. Collaborate with other groups active in the community democracy ecosystem in Australia. 	Submit Perpetual Trustees Impact Grant. Develop a fundraising and marketing program.
Finance and expand the Awakening Democracy Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve DGR status. Significantly increase income. 	See previous priority.

If you want to be involved in any of this, please [email us](#).

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 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.

Variations on means of citizen participation:

The [Oregon Citizens' Initiative Review](#) (CIR) is a randomly-selected Citizens' Jury whose participants deliberate about a ballot initiative.

The [European Citizens' Initiative](#) (ECI) is a unique transnational political innovation developed in the European Union in order to encourage participatory democracy, by allowing EU residents to propose legislation for consideration by the Commission.

From your committee

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

Keep up to date: <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/>

Share ideas: Twitter [@CAPADACT](#)

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487360858250888/>

© 2022 Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy (CAPaD). All rights reserved.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of CAPaD.

CAPaD - *Awakening Democracy*

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy