



## CAPaD 2022-23 Annual Report

### Achievements in the past year (summary):

- Continuing to help [Active Democracy Australia](#) (ADAus) organisation and website revisions and resources expansion.
- Support and publicise the ADAus Technology Supporting Democracy project.
- Continuing support for [Active Democracy Bean](#) in the ACT with their Listening posts on the Voice to Parliament.
- Working with DemocracyCo and Alicia Payne to run a Citizens' Jury event, the **Canberra Forum**, in the federal seat of Canberra.
- Coordinating the observers for the Canberra Forum.
- Using the Genuine Engagement Tool to reflect on the Canberra Forum.
- **Revise and update the [Genuine Engagement Tool](#).**
- **Submission** to Perpetual Trustees for an Impact Grant: unsuccessful despite making it to the semi-final round.
- **Application for DGR** status submitted and rejected. Involved extensive discussion among the Committee and members about the constitutional objectives and CAPaD's purpose and focus, which is reflected in the proposed further constitutional changes at the 2023 AGM. The application is being revised for resubmission in 2024.
- **Describing the ACT Community Democracy ecosystem.**
- Promoting the [Australian Democracy Network](#) and their **#OurDemocracy** campaign for a [Framework for a Fair Democracy](#) and [the Fair Play Bill](#).
- Continued to refine and add content to [the Resources Hub](#) (core component to the Education Strategy).
- Consistent production of monthly [newsletters Awakening Democracy](#).
- Initiating the [Education for Civics](#) project.
- Continued regular emails to members, forwarding information, ideas and event notifications.
- Active in the Twittersphere and on Facebook promoting our events and ideas, and relevant ones by others.
- Two Zoom Events held in 2023.

### Thanks

I would like to warmly thank the committee members in particular for their inputs and support this year, the Active Democracy Bean team for their activity promoting conversations on the Voice in Bean, and the other CAPaD members and supporters who have contributed, practical, moral and financially, to our efforts this past year. I look forward to their support continuing.

	CAPaD	Active Democracy	Facilitating entities: eg democracyCo	proACT	Campaigning entities	Political parties
<b>Levels of Government</b>						
The Senate						
The House of Representatives						
The ACT Assembly						
<b>Accountability of sitting representatives</b>						
Collecting and communicating						
Electorate community deliberations						
Questions and information from representative						
Reporting on representative's behaviour						
<b>Selecting / supporting candidate &amp; representatives</b>						
Pre-selecting candidates - active						
Pre-selecting candidates - in active						
Assessing candidates						
Supporting representatives						
Political party representative						
Community independent representative						
<b>The phase of the election cycle</b>						
Lead up to / pre-election						
Campaign (including election day)						
Post-election reflection						
Between elections.						

(shading indicates a partial role)

## Committee Members 2022 - 23

Name / Position	Selected	Due re-selection for 2 years in:
Peter Tait / Co-Convener	2022	2024
/ Co-Convener	2022-3 vacant	
/ Deputy Co-Convener	2022-3 vacant	
/ Deputy Co-Convener	2022-3 vacant	
/ Secretary	Vacant	
Mark Spain / Treasurer	2017, 2019, 2021	<b>2023</b>
Bob Douglas	2017, 2019, 2021	<b>2023</b>
Barbara Dwyer	2021	<b>2023</b>
Gilles Rohan	2022	2024
Vacant positions x 3		

## Details of 2022-23 achievements

### Support [Active Democracy Australia](#)

Mark Spain and Peter Tait have continued active engagement on the management committee of Active Democracy Australia (ADAus), along with founder Rob Salter and Marcus Crowley. The main focus this year has been ongoing maintenance of the website and adding two new electorate groups. ADAus also ran two Technology Supporting Democracy zoom sessions. An ongoing collaboration with the Change Politics project of the New Democracy Foundation is looking at producing materials for electorate groups on deliberative techniques.

In parallel, CAPaD has continued to support [Active Democracy Bean](#). Currently ADBean is running a series of community listening Posts on the Voice to Parliament, drawing on the TogetherYes campaign KTC materials. Two of four support zoom sessions have been held.

### The Canberra Forum in the federal seat of Canberra

The Canberra Forum was organised and run for Alicia Payne by DemocracyCo following our introducing them to each other last year. CAPaD supported the Forum by coordinating the observers to the face-to-face sessions. In all nine members and supporters observed one or more of the sessions.

CAPaD members have applied the Genuine Engagement Tool to their experience of the Forum with the view to reflect back to DemocracyCo and Alicia Payne what went well and what might be improved.



One of our desired outcomes from this experiment is to develop a kit that can be used by other MPs or electorate groups to undertake similar exercises in electorate level deliberation. We are in discussion with DemocracyCo on establishing a partnership for this.

## Genuine Engagement Tool (GET)

This year we revised and [re-published the tool template](#) on the website for communities to use themselves. So far there has been only one download, although half a years data was lost when Google Analytics crossed to their new application.

**Submission to Perpetual Trustees** We made a funding submission for an Impact Grant in October 2023 which involved significant work to develop a strategy and reporting framework. We sought funds for a project worker to run a ***Keeping them Honest*** campaign. This project was to assist in developing a community designed job description for MPs and look at how to report MPs' activity back to their electorate. The intent was to then feature this in the 2024 ACT and 2025 federal elections. Our application unsuccessful despite making it to the semi-final round.

## **Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Application**

The next step following successful achievement of charity status last year is to apply for DGR status. Since CAPaD doesn't fit the education categories within the ATO system, we had to apply for specific inclusion in the Income Tax Assessment Act. This is not a straight forward process.

The purpose of DGR is to enhance our capacity to raise funds by being able to offer tax-deductibility for donations to the Awakening Democracy Foundation. An application was made for assessment in the May 2023 budget process. We were not successful. Another application for DGR status in progress.

## Education Strategy Activity

- Maintaining [the Resources Hub](#) took a back seat this year due to capacity being directed to DGR and the Perpetual Trustees grant applications. Should anyone have an interest in curating this Hub, please feel free to contact us.
- Two **Zoom Events**: one on localising and democratising energy systems presented by Kevin Cox, Mark Spain and Wendy Russell, and one expanding on the well attended Canberra Conversation on democracy in May. It featured Tim Hollo and Mark Spain elaborating on how to live democracy into being.
- Initiating the [Education for Civics](#) project; this arose from conversations at the 2022 Community Independents Project convention where quite a lot of interest in the topic was found. Progress has been slow despite high interest due to other's other commitments. However, a Teams group and mailing list have been set up.
- Successful monthly [Awakening Democracy newsletters](#).
- Continued regular emails to members publicising other organisations activity and events,
- Regular activity in the Twittersphere to promote our own and others' activity and events; and
- The [Australian Democracy Network](#) **#OurDemocracy** campaign for [Framework for a Fair Democracy](#) and [the Fair Play Bill](#). This involved publicising the campaign to members and keeping people in touch with events and developments.

A complete report of activity against the Education Strategy can be found here.

## Financial reports

See the separate audited 2021-22 Financial statement.

## Plans for 2023-24

### Active Democracy Australia and ACT

We intend to continue our support for the formation of active electorate groups across Australia to build on the community independents and other electorate level activity that has been growing for the past two or more years.

### With Alicia Payne and DemocracyCo to develop a kit for use by electorate groups and MPs

CAPaD would assist with development of the kit and promote it once developed.

### Education activity

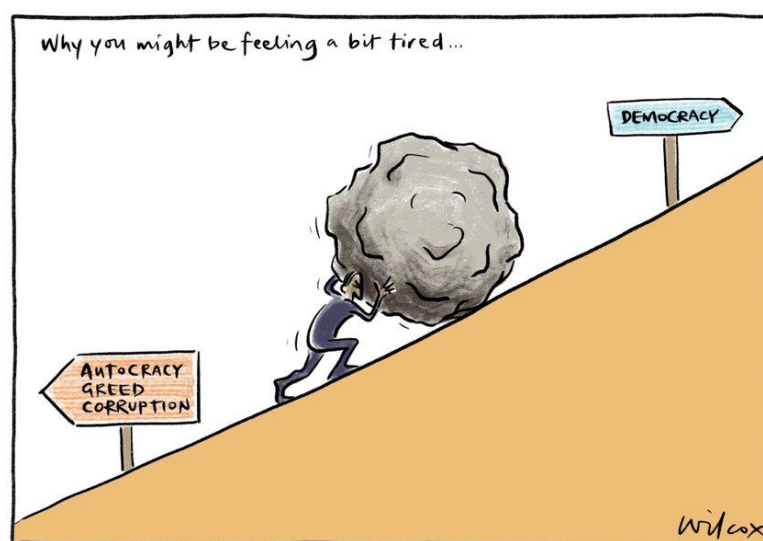
We intend to continue our current activities while developing new initiatives in line with our strategy as opportunities arise. We may submit for funding for an Education for Civics project officer depending on support from that group or again for the Keeping then Honest project.

With other community groups we will explore ways to inform and education citizens about our voting systems in the lead up to next year's ACT and the 2025 federal elections.

### Other activity

At current capacity we would only take on other activity if it was resourced.

Note: a digital version of this **Annual Report** and other reports are available at: <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/about-us/#sctabannual-reports--agms>



## 2023 Annual Report Appendix 1

### 2022-23 Report against Performance Measures

Successful activity; partially successful; unsuccessful; not undertaken this report period.

Outcome planned	Performance Indicators	Progress measures at 30/6/2023
An increasing number of people in the ACT (and Australia) are active in electorate level democracy groups.	<p>The number of active electorate groups using the Active Democracy Australia website increases year on year.</p> <p>Active Democracy Bean expands the number of active members.</p> <p>Active Democracy Bean holds KTCs on Voice to Parliament. – Focus moved to Listening Posts on the Voice.</p>	<p>Active Democracy Australia: active electorate group number not increased (remains one). Use of website: Voices for Victoria added to website.</p> <p>No increase in active members.</p> <p>4 Listening posts and two of four YesTogether zoom sessions on the Voice to Parliament held and report made and distributed.</p>
People are using our tools and resources.	<p>Resource Hub and website Activity Page are visited.</p> <p>Our Genuine Engagement Tool is being downloaded.</p> <p>Views of videos in You Tube.</p> <p>Tweets are viewed and retweeted.</p> <p>Annual activity reports show that MPs, in the ACT at least, are</p>	<p>Measure use of the Resources Hub and Activity Page: Google Analytics visits measure: 2020-21: 147 to 2021-22: 304. Data from April to June lost with Google Analytics upgrade. Activity page visits: 2021-22: 399; 2022-23: 79 (from 120 previous 4 months) Data from April to June lost with Google Analytics upgrade.</p> <p>Downloads and use of the Genuine Engagement Tool: Downloads of GETool; Jan-April 23: 0 Since April the GET was updated. One only download.</p> <p>2022 Election Reflection (5); Local Democratic Energy (12), Living Democracy (13)</p> <p>Unable to obtain annual data retrospectively. At July 15 2023, 225 Followers, following 88.</p> <p>Active participation of Alicia Payne in the Canberra forum.</p>
Parliamentarians are engaging their	<p>Annual activity reports show that MPs, in the ACT at least, are</p>	<p>Active participation of Alicia Payne in the Canberra forum.</p>

<p>electorate communities in conversations and deliberations about policy and legislation.</p>	<p>continuing and expanding activity that engages community participation.</p> <p>Reflections on and promotion of the Canberra Forum.</p>	<p>Use GET to organise CAPaD's reflection.</p> <p>Coordinating the Observers; participating with DemocracyCo in reflecting on the forum and participations.</p>
<p>National Education for Civics group established and working toward project design.</p>	<p>Meeting held.</p> <p>Decision made to proceed.</p> <p>If decision is to proceed, Steering group formed, and Funding submission prepared.</p>	<p>Names and contacts of interested people assembled.</p> <p>Initial scoping meeting held in May. Strong interest from six participants with 2 apologies. However energy for action low. Teams group set up to meet and share resources.</p> <p>Decided to continue meeting to scope the topic.</p> <p>Second meeting two attendees with useful discussion about timing of education; other possible participants too busy.</p> <p>No progress on further activity.</p>
<p>Staff employed and project activity underway.</p> <p>We are an active contributor to projects and campaigns of the network of groups working for stronger democracy in Australia.</p>	<p>Annual report counts the number of staff and active volunteers.</p> <p>Annual Reports of project activity. Annual activity reports demonstrate ongoing active engagement with these groups and promotion of their activity (as relevant).</p>	<p>Five committee and 2 ADBean volunteers continue active.</p> <p>Active engagement with ProACT on 2025 federal election planning – educational component – underway.</p> <p>Continued dissemination of CIP and #OurDemocracy information and events.</p> <p>Notified members of Canberra Conversation event on Democracy and continuing with the living democracy conversation started at that event.</p>
<p>DGR status achieved.</p> <p>Increased income.</p>	<p>Achievement of DGR status.</p> <p>Annual financial reports reflect increased income 20 % on previous year.</p>	<p>Application submitted. Unsuccessful. Resubmission in 2024 planned.</p> <p>No increase in income.</p>