

From the Voices of Bean listening report

WHAT MAKES FOR A REALLY GOOD REPRESENTATIVE?

Integrity included 'honesty', 'do what they say they will do', 'trustworthy', 'transparency', 'not beholden to donors' and 'ethical'.

'Vested interests on both sides of politics have been able to hijack democracy – reduces the scope for action. Important for the community to regain control.'

The second most important quality, **engages**, included 'listens to the electorate' and 'engages with the electorate'. Engages was the highest-ranking quality for survey respondents.

'Someone who listens, takes action and follows up with the constituent'

Local was the third category: people want a representative who is 'connected to the electorate' and 'local, from the community'.

'Someone who lives in the community they represent and who listens to the needs of their community and is their voice in the parliament.'

Principled, the fourth category, was dominated by the quality 'makes evidence-based decisions', but also included 'fairness, open-mindedness' and 'principled and stands their ground'.

'Not afraid to lose their seat (even though they probably wouldn't). Prepared to do what is best and not be dogmatic.'

Effective mostly represented 'positive change-maker' but also 'politically effective, impactful' and 'purpose-driven'. This was the quality most mentioned by KTC participants.

'Looking to the future not just the next election.' 'Fact based representation, rather than ideological posturing.'

Representative meant 'takes representative positions on issues' and was closely tied to the quality of representing the electorate in its breadth, and not just who voted for them, and representing the people not a party.

'We need more diversity in representation and more representation of lower end of the demographic spectrum.'

Independent was the seventh-highest rating quality, perhaps demonstrating that other things are more important to people, and independence may only be of significance if it is required for the other qualities to be expressed.

Comments such as 'clone David Pocock' were not infrequent, indicating that the ability of Independent candidates to be effective is now recognised.

'Major parties lock their people in, admire Bridget Archer and the Independents – refreshing change.'

The category '**authentic**' was dominated by 'not a career politician'. 'They used to be decent people who want to do good things. Now they're just career politicians, its all just a game, working for the party.'

Leadership was prominent among the qualities nominated by KTC participants, and included ‘new ideas’, ‘vision’ and ‘courage’. ‘Someone who is interested in the power of ideas not the idea of power.’ ‘Naïve to expect a representative will advocate all views – need an informed, evidence-based formulation of policy and be able to convince people of it.’

Lastly, **personality** is used to represent qualities such as ‘nice’, ‘kind’, ‘compassionate’ and ‘serving others’.

Top 10 Qualities in a Candidate
(Relative importance within each method)

