

CAPaD 2023-24 Annual Report

Achievements for the year (summary):

- Two **Living Democracy Zoom Conversations**, based in Tim Hollo's book and thinking on that topic, and initial planning for a larger live event.
- Support for the **Council for The Human Future** in planning activities to ensure the survival of humanity.
- Implement the **Democracy in Action! Conversations** as an offshoot of the Living Democracy program to develop awareness among ACT voters about representation for the public good and focusing on means to choose candidates who will work for the public good and community participation in politics.
- Taking over and continuing the [Active Democracy Australia](#) (ADAus) organisation in February 2024 as a project of CAPAD following its winding up, maintaining the website, coordinating and responding to email and website requests activity.
- Continuing IT and banking support for [Active Democracy Bean](#) in the ACT with their Voice to Parliament activity and subsequent collaboration with ANTaR.
- Follow up with Alicia Payne on our Genuine Engagement Tool reflection on the Canberra Forum.
- **Two Submissions** to Perpetual Trustees for Impact Grants to fund 1) the Democracy in Action! Conversation series for the 2024 ACT election and 2025 federal election, and 2) to develop a series of [Know your democracy videos](#) to help people understand how the government system in Australia works; this as a sub-project within the Education for Civics project. We were unsuccessful despite making it to the semi-final round.
- **Repeat application for DGR** status submitted. No response as yet from Treasury.
- Promoting the [Australian Democracy Network](#) and their **#OurDemocracy campaign** for a [Framework for a Fair Democracy, the Fair Play Bill](#) and the Protect the Right to Protest campaign.
- Continued to refine and add content to [the Resources Hub](#) (core component to the Education Strategy).
- Consistent production of monthly [newsletters Awakening Democracy](#).
- Continued regular emails to members, forwarding information, ideas and event notifications.
- Active in the Twitter(X)sphere and on Facebook promoting our events and ideas, and relevant ones by others.

Thanks to Committee and active members and supporters

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 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 your support continuing.

Committee Members 2022 - 23

Name / Position	Selected	Due re-selection for 2 years in:
Peter Tait / Co-Convener	2022	2024

/ Co-Convener	2023-4 vacant	
/ Deputy Co-Convener	2023-4 vacant	
/ Deputy Co-Convener	2023-4 vacant	
/ Secretary	Vacant	
Mark Spain / Treasurer	2017, 2019, 2021, 2033	2025
Bob Douglas	2017, 2019, 2021, 2023	2025
Barbara Dwyer	2021, 2023	2025
Gilles Rohan	2022	2024
Vacant positions x 3		

Details of 2022-23 achievements

Two **Living Democracy Zoom Conversations**, based in Tim Hollo's book and thinking on that topic, were held with 13 and 11 participants respectively. The videos of the events received 22 and 19 views respectively. There was discussion and initial planning for a larger live event. This may be held towards the end of 2024 or early 2025.

CAPaD supported the **Council for The Human Future** in planning activities and a campaign to help achieve their goal of ensuring the survival of humanity. After initial planning discussions this activity was handed back to the Council for the Human Future.

As an election focused follow on and replacement for the Living Democracy conversations, we initiated the **Democracy in Action! Conversations** to develop awareness among ACT voters about representation for the public good and focusing on means to choose candidates who will work for the public good and facilitate community participation in politics. The first conversation had 24 Registrants of whom 15 attended along with 4 non-registered attendees. Conversation two had 20 Registrants of whom 14 attended, along with 4 non-registered attendees. Nine people attended both conversations. A third conversation was held in July and will be counted in next years activity.

In February 2024 [Active Democracy Australia](#) (ADAus) wound up and CAPaD took over and continued ADAus's website and activities as a project of CAPAD. This involves maintaining the website, coordinating and responding to email and website requests activity, and continuing the collaboration with the NewDemocracy ChangePolitics citizen deliberation project. NewDemocracy altered prioritise and this project as gone quiet.

CAPaD has continued IT and banking support for [Active Democracy Bean](#) in the ACT with their Voice to Parliament activity and subsequent collaboration with ANTaR on First Nations justice.

We followed up with Alicia Payne using our **Genuine Engagement Tool to reflect on the Canberra Forum** process. This included a meeting with her and DemocracyCo to include their feedback on our reflection. Our intention to promote this widely was overtaken by other projects, and the fact that DemocracyCo is seeking an ARC grant to undertake a research project on similar events.

Two Submissions were made to Perpetual Trustees for Impact Grants to fund 1) the Democracy in Action! Conversation series for the 2024 ACT election and 2025 federal election, and 2) to develop a series of [Know your democracy videos](#) to help people understand how the government system in Australia works; this as a sub-project within the Education for Civics project. We were unsuccessful despite making it to the semi-final round.

A second **application for DGR** status submitted. No response as yet from Treasury.

Mail: 91 David Street, O'Connor ACT 2602

Email: secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/> @CAPADACT

We continued promoting the [Australian Democracy Network](#) and their **#OurDemocracy campaign** for a [Framework for a Fair Democracy](#), [the Fair Play Bill](#) and the Protect the Right to Protest campaign.

Continued to refine and add content to [the Resources Hub](#) (a core component to the Education Strategy) as possible during the year.

Our monthly [newsletters Awakening Democracy](#) was produced eleven times this year.

We continued regular emails to members, forwarding information, ideas and event notifications.

Active in the Twitter(X)sphere and on Facebook promoting our events and ideas, and relevant ones by others.

Brief Report against 2024 Education Strategy

This report only covers the year's priority focuses from [the Education Strategy](#).

Strategic Overview and action priorities summary:

Outcome Domain 1 – Understanding Government Systems

- Coordinate an Education for Civics project to support teaching Civics and Citizenship in the National Curriculum and provide accessible resources for the general public about our electoral system.

Outcome Domain 2 – Influences on democracy

- Support for the Australian Democracy Network's campaigns.

Outcome Domain 3 – harnessing the political system

- Build community capacity to hold MPs accountable.
- To have many communities actively participating in electorate level democracy by supporting, promoting and trialling different engagement models.

Outcome Domain 4 – reforming the political system

- Engage and mobilise people through the Living Democracy Conversations.

See table on next page for outcomes.

Financial reports

See the separate audited 2021-22 Financial statement.

2023-24 Education Strategy KPI and Progress

Outcome	Metric	Progress
Outcome Domain 1 – Understanding Government		
Education for Civics (E4C) project active, meeting and producing resources.	<p>Number of people active in the project.</p> <p>Number of new articles uploaded to E4C Teams Site.</p> <p>Number of resources created.</p> <p>For events, pre- and post-surveys to measure change in knowledge.</p>	<p>Nil.</p> <p>6 posts. No new articles.</p> <p>No resources created.</p> <p>No events held.</p> <p>Note preliminary interviews with 1 teacher and three students/past students to scope understanding of this topic.</p> <p>Know your Democracy video project planned; funding not received. On hold.</p>
Outcome Domain 2 – Influences on democracy		
Australian Democracy Network’s campaigns and the Fair Play Bill campaign emails and materials being distributed to members and supporters.	Number of emails distributed.	<p>Six campaign emails forwarded, included the Fair Play Bill, the Campaign for a Healthy Australian Democracy and the Protect the right to protest campaign.</p> <p>Each email forwarded elicits one or two acknowledgements or comments from the email list.</p>
Outcome Domain 3 – harnessing the political system		
Build community capacity to hold MPs accountable.	<p>Number of KTCs held.</p> <p>Number of participants in KTCs. Note, KTCs changed to live Democracy in Action! workshop events.</p> <p>Production of final Report on KTC process.</p> <p>Number of downloads of the Genuine Engagement Tool from CAPaD website.</p>	<p>Two Democracy in Action! Live events:</p> <p>Conversation 1: 24 Registrants of whom 15 attended; +4 non-registered attendees.</p> <p>Conversation 2: 20 Registrants of whom 14 attended; +4 non-registered attendees.</p> <p>Nine attended both.</p> <p>Two local democratic government sessions: 11 and 12 participants respectively.</p> <p>Pending final conversation in 2024-25.</p> <p>2023-24 Google Analytics data lost. One use, in-house, to reflect on the Canberra Forum.</p>

<p>An increasing number of communities are actively participating in electorate level democracy by forming electorate groups and trialling different engagement models.</p>	<p>Increase in number of active electorate groups across Australia. Number of electorates with active groups.</p> <p>Number of visits to Active Democracy Australia website.</p> <p>Number of new enrolments on the website.</p>	<p>No increase in ADAus based groups. Expanding Community Independents Movement groups. Some use of the ADAus website and interest for deliberative practices through the collaboration with New Democracy's Change Politics project which was wound down during the year before events could be arranged.</p> <p>From July 2023 to 20 July 2024: 1132.</p> <p>Total new enrolments for the year: 20. Total new Twitter followers: 15.</p>
<p>Outcome Domain 4 – reforming the political system</p>		
<p>Engage and mobilise people through the Living Democracy Conversations.</p>	<p>Number of participants in the conversations and events.</p> <p>Production of Report on the conversations.</p>	<p>Two zoom Living Democracy sessions. 13 and 11 participants respectively. 22 and 19 views of the videos respectively.</p> <p>Conversation process halted by the Earth System Treaty conversations, then the Democracy in Action! Conversations took over this space. Report deferred until 2025 when / if the Living Democracy conversation resumes.</p>

Plans for 2024-25

Active Democracy Australia

Continue to maintain the website to support formation of active electorate groups across Australia. To continue support for **Active Democracy Bean**.

Education activity

Build on the Democracy in Action conversations in the lead up to next year's 2025 federal elections. Expand the focus to include a better understanding of the job of an MP as a parliamentarian and as a representative. Further develop the criteria for knowing candidates and work toward a feedback accountability mechanism to help the community know what sort of job their representative is doing.

Write up and promote our reflections of the Democracy in Action! conversations.

Continue to explore ways of delivering a **Know you democracy** project.

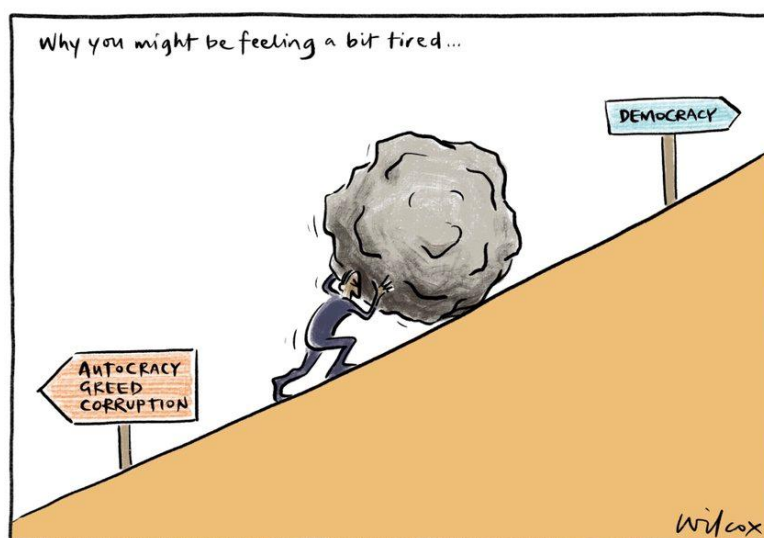
Collaborate on a **Living Democracy event** in early 2025 to continue exploring how to set up a parallel governance system.

Possibly collaborate on a **Democratic Confederation event** in Canberra in November 2024; this is still in the very early planning stages so may not happen.

Advocate for a **trial of participatory budgeting** to be held in the ACT in the term of the next Assembly. We note this is Greens policy and that Canberra Liberals have expressed ideas that might open them to support this.

Begin development of a project for a **Standing Citizens Assembly** to be trialed in the ACT of another Australian jurisdiction.

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



“My father always said you can’t just take democracy for granted. You’ve got to look after it like it’s a garden. You’ve got to cherish it. Because if you don’t, weeds will grow”

William McInnes.