

# Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

DECEMBER 2024

G'day members, supporters and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#):  
**Seasons best wishes**, federal election, Achieving Political Renewal ... more to read, hear and watch.



## COMING UP / HAPPENINGS

### Achieving Political Renewal Report

The [Progressive Action Lab](#) (PAL), set up by Justin Ryan, seeks to start a conversation about the practice of renewing our government systems, and in particular the pre-selecting of candidates and ultimately about how political parties might be reformed. CAPaD is collaborating in this work as part of the MP job description phase of our project for educating people for how to get the best people for the job of representative.

On December 1, at the Polish Club in Turner, an event attended by about 40 people heard from PAL, CAPaD, ProACT, Voices of Bean, Rebecca Vassarotti, and others about their experiences of candidate selection, and the importance of political parties. There was no clear outcomes to the meeting.

PAL is also undertaking an Indie Democracy Scorecard survey to see how community independent candidates are selected. PAL's objective is to make these selection processes open and transparent to the community. More can be found about [this here](#).

## ELECTION 2025

### What is an MP's job description?

This activity follows from the 2024 Democracy in Action! Conversations, the outputs from which and Election education activity report are [on our Election page](#).



The plan is to hold one or two conversations early next year to answer the questions: What is the job on an MP? How do we see if our MPs measure up? How do we report this, and how do we feedback to our representatives? Timing depends a bit on when Albanese calls the election. We then plan to hold an Candidate Forum in each of the three federal electorates. More details in February.

### Public payments to ACT political parties – 2024 Election Returns

Registered political party	Amount of payment
Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch)	\$950,563.73
Belco Party (ACT)	\$26,616.48
Family First Party (ACT)	\$26,352.34
Fiona Carrick Independent	\$74,180.73
Independents for Canberra	\$236,988.22
Liberal Party of Australia (A.C.T. Division)	\$931,089.00
The ACT Greens	\$338,984.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,584,774.68</b>

## ACTIVE PROJECTS

ACTIVE  
DEMOCRACY  
AUSTRALIA

(ADAus) Not much current action.



### Active Democracy Bean

are taking a break till February. **They welcome suggestions for topics and speakers for next year** – send ideas and requests to their email below.

Any questions or interest to join us? Contact [activedemocracybean@outlook.com](mailto:activedemocracybean@outlook.com).

Active Democracy Bean [has a Facebook page](#) for the latest what is on and information. More about Bean and ADB on their [webpage](#). **The Active Democracy ACT site is here.**

## Living Democracy

I recently participated (privately) in the Canberra Wave of the Rising Tide Against New Coal and Gas event. I volunteered to help out with the Affinity Group training and to support running the Spokes Councils in Canberra. My initial thoughts about the relevance of that experience to Living Democracy [is written here](#).

One outcome of that event was that Tim Hollo has set up a chat group to take up ideas for how to use this experience to grow a Living Democracy community of practice (although we are not calling it that).

A second piece putting this experience into a participatory / living democracy framework, [A Democratic Governance Toolkit, is here](#).

## THINGS TO LISTEN TO, WATCH AND READ

**Our standing reminders** about:

- [Democracy Sausage podcast](#) from the ANU Public Policy Institute. Lots of very topical topics, and
- [Juice Media](#) for an [irreverent and spicy look at current politics](#) in Australia and beyond.
- [Punters Politics](#) [another comedic look](#) at Australia's political goings on.
- [Crazy Town](#) From [the Post Carbon Institute \(go to Products/Podcasts\)](#). 2025 season looked at how to escape Crazy Town.

All **available** from your favourite podcast service.

Looking at using humour to defend democracy.

<https://commonslibrary.org/defending-democracy-with-humor-and-dilemma-actions-tactics/>

**Reclaiming Democracy from Dark Money & Dark Tech: Seven Observations On 2024 and What's Next, [Field of the Future Blog](#)**, by Otto Scharmer. Glimmers of hope found here.

<https://medium.com/presencing-institute-blog/an-emerging-third-option-reclaiming-democracy-from-dark-money-dark-tech-3886bcd0469b>

*From your committee with **our wishes for your very merry festivities**.*

**Contact us:** [secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au)

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

**Share ideas:** [Twitter \(X\)](#) @CAPADACT

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