

## Some other questions to be considered before finalising the Job Description

2.5 minute read

These are some questions, and probably there are more, that have arisen during all phases of working up this project and which we haven't a specific answer. Indeed, there may not be any answers, but the questions still stand to inform our thinking about the job description and the questions we may want to put to candidates.

The questions are:

- What about their role as a party member? What about their role as a citizen? Are these part of the role and how do they fit in?
- In terms of an MP, especially a backbencher, should the focus be as much on the contribution that they are making to good governance (policy development, inquiries, legislation, government scrutiny) and the public good or should the focus be on the specific outcomes they are achieving?
- Who decides the outcomes? How?
- What is the place for specific pre-commitments from candidates, both input commitments (contributions) and output commitments (achievements)?
- In the context of finding community need and distinguishing this from wants, what processes would be included in a job description? Is the facilitating community participation sufficient?
- How do other jurisdictions and countries do this?

To close the loop and make this useful, there needs to be a mechanism for collecting information about the MP's performance, turning in it into an easily understood report, and for the community to have options for what they do with that information. Some of the aspects of knowing one's representative is doing a good job are:

1. there is a "job description" against which to measure their performance,
2. there are some metrics to use to measure their performance against the "job description",
3. only significant, meaningfully useful information is reported to the community. How is the information moderated, by whom? How is what information to be reported selected and build in a nuanced report,
4. there is a way of reporting this back to the community,
5. there is a process for the community to use that information to judge the MP's performance,
6. there is a means to feedback to the MP how the community thinks they are going,
7. there is a process for the community to act on what they think between elections as well as at elections.

At the moment we are focused on the first three steps and are using the recent ACT and upcoming federal elections as an opportunity to spark conversations about this.

Of course this is not a one way process. We would hope that communities and MPs would be working together to a shared goal and anticipated outcomes.

The next step is to hold a conversation or two to finalise the job description and use it to come up with two or three questions for candidates at the Candidate Forums.