



Australian Community
Futures Planning
Newsletter No. 11

We have it in our power to create the world anew

ACFP was set up in March 2020.

Our purpose is to give Australians an efficient means by which they can increase their shares of power and influence in their democracy, take more control of their future, and build the sort of country they want to leave to future generations.

Find us and become involved at www.austcfp.com.au

May 2023

What's been happening at ACFP?

- ACFP Founder Bronwyn Kelly is now on Substack, providing updates and articles on *The State of Australia*
- ACFP has made a submission to the government's review of defence legislation
- New media articles by and about ACFP's work are emerging.

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ACFP has launched a newsletter on The State of Australia on Substack

ACFP's Founder Bronwyn Kelly is now on Substack with a newsletter on **The State of Australia.**

Subscribe for regular updates, articles, videos and podcasts at this [link](https://bronwynkelly.substack.com/).

<https://bronwynkelly.substack.com/>

[Read or listen to the first article here.](#)

ACFP Newsletter No. 11, May 2023



A newsletter on the state of Australia's democracy, social justice and wellbeing, environmental and economic sustainability, national security, and progress with Australia's first community-based long term plan for the nation's future,

Australia Together.

Click [here](#) to subscribe for free on Substack at <https://bronwynkelly.substack.com/>

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ACFP has made a submission to the review of defence legislation

A review of defence legislation is currently being led by the Assistant Minister for Defence Matt Thistlethwaite. ACFP has made a submission stating that proposed Defence Act changes as canvassed in the Defence Department's Public Consultation Paper do not support the national interest and in several ways run fully counter to it. We are able to make this statement due to research we have completed about what Australians value. This research has been published in full in Bronwyn Kelly's recent book, [The People's Constitution: the path to empowerment of Australians in a 21st century democracy](#).

ACFP has submitted that by embedding permissions for aggression in our defence system the principles being used in the review of defence legislation seriously threaten our wellbeing and security and are entirely inconsistent with Australian values. We have submitted that the government should take note of the points and objections raised by the [Independent and Peaceful Australia Network \(IPAN\)](#). In addition ACFP has submitted that:

1. the entire defence legislation reform process should be shelved; and
2. it should be replaced with a fully inclusive strategic planning process in which Australians can participate to define the nation's strategic interests and acceptable paths towards the maintenance of those interests (that is, paths that are consistent with their values as espoused by them, not by governments or the Defence Department).

[Read ACFP's full submission to the defence legislation review here.](#)

ACFP research on Australian values

Chapter 5 of Bronwyn Kelly's latest book, [The People's Constitution](#), contains the full findings of extensive research on Australian values as they have been expressed by Australians themselves (not by governments) over the last two decades in surveys, community discussions and planning exercises, focus groups and university research projects.

Politicians often speak about Australian values but rarely do they define them and when they do, they don't bother to check with Australians themselves. Were they to check with us, one of things they would find is that we value peace, not war.

Stay tuned for the audio version of *The People's Constitution*, coming in podcast series soon on

 substack

The People's Constitution will also be available soon in bookstores. Available now [here](#).

[Read ACFP's blog article on how the guiding principles for reform of defence legislation run counter to the values of Australians.](#)

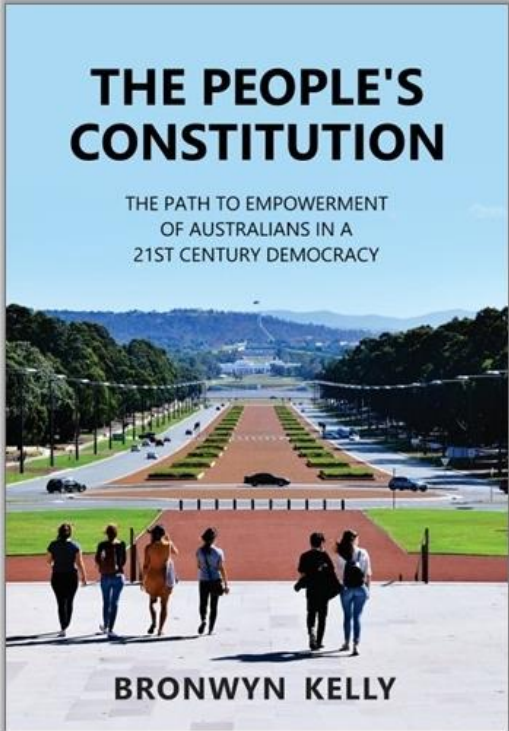


Submission to Defence on reforming defence legislation
Read ACFP's full submission [here](#).
The Defence Department's "Guiding Principles for Reform" run counter to the values of Australians.



Australian Government
Defence
Reforming Defence legislation to meet Australia's strategic needs

What do Australians really value?
Find out in Chapter 5 of *The People's Constitution*.



THE PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTION
THE PATH TO EMPOWERMENT OF AUSTRALIANS IN A 21ST CENTURY DEMOCRACY
BRONWYN KELLY

ACFP media articles

In addition to our blog articles, ACFP is publishing more frequently in the media on an array of topics including human rights, defence, Australian values and the economy.

Read recent articles by our Founder Bronwyn Kelly in [John Menadue's Pearls and Irritations](#), a public policy journal which has become a site for publishing thoughtful commentary by experienced writers and former public servants on the challenges faced by Australia and solutions for a better future.

Bronwyn Kelly's recent essay in reply to Jim Chalmers has also been reviewed independently by Ian McAuley of the Centre for Policy Development in his Bear Weekly Roundup.

[Read Ian McAuley's review here](#) or [here](#).

[Listen to the full essay in reply to Jim Chalmers here.](#)
[Read the full essay in reply to Jim Chalmers here.](#)

Jim Chalmers has also taken note of the essay. We have been advised by his office that he will be reading it. Let's hope he does.

[And read other ACFP blog articles here.](#) Click on the pictures below for a sample of the latest.

PEARLS AND IRRITATIONS
John Menadue's Public Policy Journal
GOVERNMENT, POLITICS | By Bronwyn Kelly | Mar 28, 2023
Australia: can we avoid a future that is truly frightening?
Read about how we can avoid a disastrous future if we build a new constitution – **a people's constitution.**
acfp [Click here to read the full article.](#)

PEARLS AND IRRITATIONS
John Menadue's Public Policy Journal
GOVERNMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS, MEDIA, POLITICS
Our human rights are fundamental to our chances of peace
By Bronwyn Kelly
Apr 30, 2023
Read about how we need to enshrine human rights in Australia's Constitution to secure peace, social justice and safety in climate change.
acfp [Click here to read the full article.](#)

PEARLS AND IRRITATIONS
John Menadue's Public Policy Journal
acfp **Ian McAuley comments on this essay by Bronwyn Kelly in his Bear Weekly Roundup**
acfp *Australia Together*
Podcast essays
Conversations with Australia's Treasurer about building an Australian people's economy
An essay in reply to Jim Chalmers by ACFP's Founder, Bronwyn Kelly
[Click here for McAuley's review](#)

acfp blog
<https://www.austcfp.com.au/blog>
Which comes first? The budget or the people?
Jim Chalmers says:
We can't fund every good idea.
Actually, we can.
Australia has enough wealth to go around. We just need to organise it better and share it fairly.
[Read the full article here.](#)

acfp blog
<https://www.austcfp.com.au/blog>
On climate change, peace and social justice, we have the means. But who has the will?
Australians need to be given the means to voice their will.
THE PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTION
THEY CAN ONLY DO THAT WITH A PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTION.
[Read the full article here.](#)

ACFP's first article on Substack is also now available. Because it is a newsletter about the state of Australia, it is fitting that the first article is about how Australians now have access to reports that can help them see whether the parliamentarians we elect are working together to help us progress towards a better Australia. [Read the first article here.](#)

The State of
acfp
Australia
substack

Australians can now see whether parliaments are working for them.

By Bronwyn Kelly

[Read it here.](#)