



Australian Community
Futures Planning
Newsletter No. 9

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

January 2023

What's been happening at ACFP?

- ACFP's Founder Bronwyn Kelly has released a new book: *The People's Constitution*
- ACFP has made a submission to Treasury's Measuring What Matters program.
- Our first scholarly article about National Integrated Planning & Reporting has been published in a peer reviewed international journal.

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It's been a busy time at ACFP with:

- submissions to Treasury about the wellbeing of Australians and how to measure it;
- articles about National Integrated Planning & Reporting; and
- a new research project on Australia's Constitution.

Bronwyn Kelly also addressed the [Women's Climate Congress](#) in Canberra in September 2022. It was a privilege to be in the company of so many wonderful women working together to halt climate change. Join the Congress [here](#).



ACFP's Founder publishes a new book on an Australian People's Constitution

After the 2022 federal election ACFP's Founder Bronwyn Kelly took a break from the normal work of research and testing of the National Integrated Planning & Reporting process to write a book about the possibility of a new Constitution for Australia –

The People's Constitution.

The new book offers Australians a safe path towards their empowerment in democracy by showing how they can add their voices to their votes. It shows how they can dramatically but efficiently increase their influence in their own governance by creating clear terms of trust with those they elect to positions of power. It also shows how, in the process, they can secure a far better future for every Australian.

The People's Constitution canvasses the history of democracy in Western countries and shows how Australia's representative democracy needs to be significantly strengthened and transformed into a full participatory democracy if we are to preserve our independence as a sovereign nation and chart a course to a better future. It proposes that the necessary strength in our systems of governance can be achieved if a place is provided for Australians themselves in their Constitution and if they are accorded a rightful share of power – the power to express their sovereign will as a nation and to issue that as terms of trust to those they elect to government.

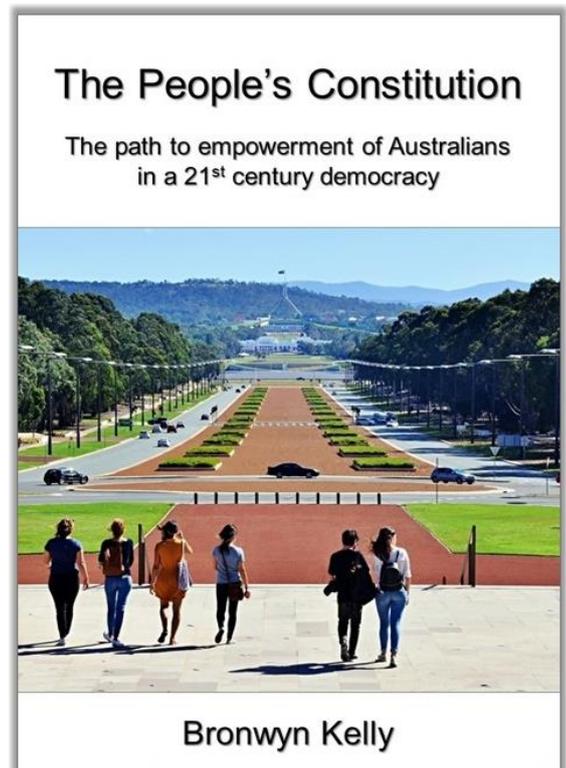
The current Constitution makes no space for the people of Australia other than to say that their vote is necessary to elect those who will govern them. Other substantial limitations include the fact that it imposes no obligation on governments to care for the wellbeing and security of those who elect them and makes no space for processes that will give a voice to the Australian people as to the preferred purpose, values and character of the nation.

This voice is necessary if we wish to create terms of trust between the Australian people and the governments they elect – terms that are clear enough to improve the relationship between electors and the elected and coherent enough to ensure that parliaments and governments cannot be mistaken about the quality of life Australians wish to establish now and for future generations.

Taking inspiration from the First Nations calls in the Uluru Statement from the Heart for **Voice, Treaty and Truth**, the book offers a practical opportunity for all Australians to express for the first time their sovereign will by calling for the establishment of **Values, Rights and Voices** in the Constitution.

The lesson from First Nations is that unless people have more power in their Constitution they will have no power over their future. But with a People's Constitution Australians can significantly increase their chances of surviving existential threats of climate change, war, pandemics, natural resource depletion, biodiversity extinctions, unsustainable consumption patterns, global economic inequality and democratic collapse.

And as Australians approach the question of whether they may wish to become a republic, this book argues that an Australian people's constitution would make such a decision truly meaningful and empowering by enabling them to describe the sort of republic they wish to become and the place they can rightfully take within it to increase the chances that all their children will flourish.



The People's Constitution

Available in Kindle from
Amazon AU\$11.99

Available soon in paperback.

Click [here](#) to read

The People's Constitution:
the path to empowerment of
Australians in a 21st century democracy.

ACFP has made a submission to Treasury's Measuring What Matters program

Australia's new federal government wants to build a "wellbeing budget". For that purpose they want to establish a new indicators measurement framework that goes beyond measuring economic growth (GDP).

Treasury has called for submissions from Australians on what they would like to see measured and has released a paper saying that "Measuring what matters is important for tracking and achieving progress. A coherent and comprehensive framework would help us better understand our economy and society and would support more informed policy making and improved accountability."

Treasury's preferred approach is to adopt the OECD's Indicators Framework and add some Australia-specific indicators for measurement of the environment and the economy. ACFP has responded with a submission which outlines the limitations of Treasury's preferred approach.

Treasury has stated that "Australia does not currently have an integrated approach to measuring what matters." ACFP has responded that this is incorrect. We have submitted that:

It is true that the Australian **government** does not have an integrated approach to measuring what matters, but Australia itself does. It is called the [Australia Together National Wellbeing Index](#) and it exists as an important tool in factual measurement of Australia's progress towards (or away from) a well-defined **Vision** of what Australians have said really matters to them. It measures the current wellbeing of the Australian people, but also progress towards their preferred future.

[ACFP's submission](#) explains the difference between the OECD Indicators Framework and the [Australia Together National Wellbeing Index](#). We have suggested that Treasury may wish to consider what matters to Australians by asking them first what they value now and what future they want, then selecting the policies that will preserve what they value and maximise their chances of realising their preferred future. Only then will it be possible to select indicators that will measure progress on what really matters to Australians. We have also suggested that this can only be done by using a long term integrated planning process, which the government does not have. However, in its absence, ACFP's process of [National Integrated Planning & Reporting](#) may be a useful example of a planning process which enables people to assess that a policy makes sense in relation to the agreed objectives for the Australian community's quality of life. An option for the government is to link whatever Treasury's preferred framework might be to the *Australia Together* framework and/or to a similar wellbeing indicators and planning system (if one exists).

We have also suggested that if the government is interested in the values of Australians as a frame of reference for selecting policies and indicators, Treasury will find some useful information in Chapter 5 of the ACFP's latest research piece, [The People's Constitution: the path to empowerment of Australians in a 21st century democracy](#). These findings on Australian values may serve as a useful basis for further studies and national surveys by Treasury.

Monitoring our progress towards a particular destination – the Vision for Australia Together

Not just an indication of our current health and wellbeing. It monitors the direction of the nation and checks whether we are traveling along the preferred safe routes.

The Vision for Australia Together

By 2050, we and our children and grandchildren will be living a fulfilling life in an Australia where:

- We are safe
- We are reconciled with and celebrate our First Nations peoples and their cultures
- Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life
- We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing
- We act together as a compassionate society
- Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress
- Diversity is positively appreciated as a basis for a successful society
- Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice
- Vital services are fully accessible
- Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared
- National wealth is fairly shared
- Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards for everyone
- As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society
- Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival
- Strong democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community
- We are confident our leaders will reflect thoughtfully on our views and best interests when making decisions for our future
- We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safer, more peaceful and united world

These are the aspirations of our hopeful generation. We commit to this Vision for Australia Together so that we can pass the gifts we have inherited to our children, and they to theirs.



[View ACFP's submission on Measuring What Matters](#)

Our first scholarly article about National IP&R in a peer reviewed international journal

It is only two years since ACFP launched National Integrated Planning & Reporting as a new means of helping Australians get together and plan a better future for their nation.

The original idea for National IP&R came from local government, which has been practising Integrated Planning & Reporting to varying degrees under legislation in several Australian states for at least a decade.

ACFP has been pilot testing the use of Integrated Planning & Reporting at the national level as a community-driven planning process. We have adapted and expanded the capacity of the form of IP&R used by local governments so that it can help Australians plan for their national economy and so that it can ensure the diversity of the Australian community is protected and used as the strength that it is.

So far, the pilot testing has not revealed any problems with the functioning of National IP&R. It is working well as a process that can be community-driven at a national level if it is supported by good research and measurement tools such as the [Australia Together National Wellbeing Index](#).

ACFP plans to keep testing the National IP&R process and assessing the starting draft plan produced by the process – [Australia Together](#) – for at least the next two years. [To date we have released six drafts of Australia Together](#), each of which has built upon the previous issue. We have also added an extra part to the research program that we run to ensure Australians have everything they need to plan for a better future and monitor their progress towards it. That new component of research is about how the Australian Constitution will need to be amended to ensure Australians can be guaranteed the human rights they need to exercise their voice about their preferred future.

Scholarly article by Bronwyn Kelly on **National IP&R** published in peer reviewed international journal:

Local governments can show national governments how to plan better: Integrated planning and reporting reforms in Australia

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

ACFP's four-part research program to help Australians build their own plan for a better nation

- An integrated planning process for use by Australians
National Integrated Planning & Reporting
- A structure for a long term national plan
Australia Together
- Research to assemble a draft Vision and Directions
- A comprehensive national wellbeing index
Australia Together National Wellbeing Index

A 5th component of research has been added

Reform of Australia's Constitution
The People's Constitution

ACFP media articles

ACFP has continued to publish in the media. In 2023 we hope to produce more articles particularly on the Indigenous Voice, the possibility of a republic, a new Constitution, and of course a new framework for the exercise of Australian voices in democracy.

PEARLS AND IRRITATIONS
John Menadue's Public Policy Journal

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
Australians will miss a once in a century opportunity if we shirk a referendum on an Indigenous voice
By Bronwyn Kelly
Aug 13, 2022

Read about what non-Indigenous Australians will lose if we do not enshrine an Indigenous Voice in the Constitution – A lot!

Click [here](#) to read the full article.