



Australian Community Futures Planning

Questions about *Australia Together*

Does the Vision for *Australia Together* reflect
what Australians have said they value and want?

March 2024, updated August 2026

Contents

What is the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> ?	2
The draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i>	3
What do Australians value?	4
The draft Statement of Australian Values for insertion into Australia's Constitution	4
Does the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> reflect what Australians value and want?	5
Table 1 – How is the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> aligned with and supportive of Australian Values?	6
Are there any elements of the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> which are not aligned with what Australians value and want?	21
Table 2 – If we reversed the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> , could we expect to live our values and achieve what we want?	22
Table 3 – If we reversed the Statement of Australian Values, could we expect to make the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> a reality?	24
Table 4 – If we reversed the 57 Direction statements in the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> , could we expect to live our values and achieve what we want?	27

[Read](#) the latest draft of *Australia Together*

<https://www.austcfp.com.au/australia-together>

Further questions may be forwarded to ACFP at info@austcfp.com.au

Become involved in building a plan for a better Australia at the ACFP: www.austcfp.com.au

What is the Vision for *Australia Together*?

The Vision for *Australia Together* sets out the aspirations of Australians for the future of their nation. It is a draft vision that has been assembled by ACFP by scanning the views of Australians on the best future they can imagine as those views have been expressed in various surveys and research programs over the last two decades. [Read the latest draft of the Vision for *Australia Together* here.](#)

The draft Vision has been assembled to enable ACFP to run trials of a process for development of Australia's first National Community Futures Plan – we've called that plan [Australia Together](#). The planning process on trial is called [National Integrated Planning & Reporting](#). It is an inclusive planning process enabling any and all Australians to become involved in planning a better future for their country and presenting that plan to those they elect as a statement of their preferred destination as a nation and their preferred paths toward it.

In effect, the draft Vision for *Australia Together* and the National Integrated Planning & Reporting process devised by ACFP comprise an experimental program in which we are all able to ask a question that is fundamental to our quality of life and even to our survival. That question is:

**If the draft Vision for *Australia Together* is what Australians want for their future,
what is the safest way to get there?**

ACFP's role in this process is to provide Australians with the tools they need to answer that question in an organised and efficient way. We are helping them design a plan to make the best future they can imagine in the 2020s into a reality by 2050 or sooner. One of the key tools we offer for that purpose is the [Australia Together National Wellbeing Index](#). This is a database of the factual information that we all need to be able to develop strategies which will make the Vision a reality without resulting in exclusion of diverse Australians or an increase in inequality.

However, in addition to helping Australians build plans charting the safest paths to their preferred future, ACFP also plays an important role in helping Australians to revise the Vision itself to ensure that it does actually reflect what Australians value and want for the future. In this regard ACFP's Founder Bronwyn Kelly published the findings of detailed research about Australian values in 2023 in her book, [The People's Constitution: the path to empowerment of Australians in a 21st century democracy](#). This research has enabled ACFP to analyse whether and how the Vision for *Australia Together* reflects what Australians value and want.

This Q&A sheet provides an assessment of how the Vision for *Australia Together* is indeed aligned with and supports the values and aspirations of Australians for their future. The two go hand in hand. There is a full alignment between the Vision and what Australians value for themselves, their children and their nation as a whole. In summary, the draft Vision for *Australia Together* does reflect what we value and want for our future. It is the key to ensuring we can live our values and build the nation, country and future we want.

The Vision for *Australia Together* is the result of ongoing drafting. It is subject to change as Australians and their circumstances change. Comments are always welcome on any changes that may be necessary. Surveys are always open [here](#).

Click [here](#) to comment on the Vision and Directions for *Australia Together*

<https://www.austcfp.com.au/survey-forms>

The draft Vision for *Australia Together*

The Vision for *Australia Together* is comprised of:

- a high level one-page Vision statement (pictured at right) containing 17 statements about the aspirations that Australians have expressed for the quality of life they wish to be able to lead by 2050; and
- 57 Direction statements of the preferred and safe routes toward that Vision.

Read the full Vision and Directions [here](#). The 17 elements of the one-page Vision are as follows:

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

1. We are all safe
2. We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination
3. Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life
4. We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing
5. We act together as a compassionate society
6. Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress
7. Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society
8. 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
9. Vital services are fully accessible for all
10. Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared
11. National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared
12. Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone
13. As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society
14. Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival
15. Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals
16. We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations
17. We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world



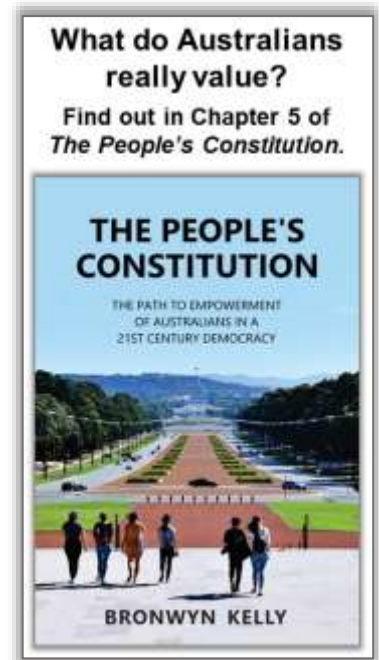
What do Australians value?

In Chapter 5 of [*The People's Constitution: the path to empowerment of Australians in a 21st century democracy*](#), author Bronwyn Kelly detailed the findings of research on what Australians have said they value and want for themselves and their nation whenever they have been asked about that in the 21st century. This enabled development of a draft **Statement of Australian Values**.

For purposes of assessing how well the Vision for *Australia Together* is aligned with and supports these values, an extract of the draft Statement of Australian Values is provided below.

The draft Statement of Australian Values for insertion into Australia's Constitution

Extract from Chapter 5 of *The People's Constitution*.



Statement of Australian Values (draft for community engagement)

We the people of Australia are at one in this our Sovereign Will to chart a course to a future where **peace prevails and the common wellbeing is secured for all** in a manner consistent with the preeminent value we place on:

- the safety of all members of the nation and the stability, security and cohesion of society as a whole;
- honesty, integrity and ethics in all relationships, in governance and in corporate responsibility;
- creation and maintenance of a fully inclusive, participatory democracy which exhibits openness, transparency and respect for the voices of all Australians in matters of policy and governance;
- universal human rights;
- social harmony and appreciation of diversity;
- Australia's First Nations particularly in relation to:
 - our recognition of their rightful and essential place at the Heart of the nation's past, present and future,
 - truth-telling on the history of colonisation and the violence and injustice of their dispossession,
 - Makarrata, reconciliation with and just treaty between First Nations and non-Indigenous Australians,
 - celebration of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,
 - our acknowledgement of their ancestral tie to the land and the sovereignty that arises from that as coexistent with the sovereignty of all Australians, and, consequent on that acknowledgement,
 - the equal right of First Nations alongside all Australians to their own Voice in the Constitution;

- equality and egalitarianism – in ensuring wellbeing and in respect for all regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, national or ethnic origin, cultural heritage, religious persuasion or secularity, or wealth;
- benevolence and compassion for those close to us, for distant communities and for refugees;
- equal opportunity for all;
- social justice – meaning fair outcomes for all, fair sharing of national wealth, fair sharing of the burden and benefit of taxation, fair access to services, and equality before the law;
- life-long health, including physical, mental and societal health and happiness;
- life-long accessibility of education;
- life-long opportunity for expansion of the mind and human creative capacity;
- scientific intelligence and research capacity;
- unobstructed access to public information and protection of privacy and personal information;
- information markets that are properly regulated for the purpose of promotion of truth;
- national resilience, preparedness for crises and capacity to avert preventable crises;
- protection of the natural environment and conservation of natural resources;
- the planet, its ecosystems and species diversity;
- future generations and intergenerational equity;
- freedom of speech, expression, information, peaceful assembly and association, protest, choice in life path and partner, travel, belief, religion, secularity and atheism, political communication, freedom of the press, and freedom from discrimination, unlawful or arbitrary detention, political persecution, fear and want;
- the contributions and dignity of everyone, regardless of employment status, disability and working life stage;
- the formation and ongoing support of a human-centred economy capable of providing continuous full employment and opportunities for meaningful work and life satisfaction;
- the formation and ongoing support of an environmentally sustainable economy capable of ensuring proper conservation of scarce natural resources;
- fairness and ethics in foreign and domestic trade and finance;
- decency, humanity, cooperation and integrity in our international citizenry;
- independence in national sovereignty; and
- self-determination through a voice in our own governance.

Does the Vision for *Australia Together* reflect what Australians value and want?

[Table 1](#) below takes the above list of Australian values and shows which elements of the Vision for *Australia Together* align with and support each of the values. It shows how the Vision is designed to maximise our chances of building a society that can live those values. Put another way, if we can make the Vision a reality then everything Australians have said they value and want will be more secure.

How to read [Table 1](#) – The left-hand column simply sets out the full text of the draft of Australian Values as they have been listed in *The People's Constitution*. The right-hand column shows which elements of the Vision for *Australia Together* are aligned with and supportive of each value listed on the left.

Table 1 – How is the Vision for *Australia Together* aligned with and supportive of Australian Values?

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<i>If we value this ...</i>	<i>... then which elements of the Vision will help us live those values? ...</i>	
We the people of Australia are at one in this our Sovereign Will to chart a course to a future where peace prevails and the common wellbeing is secured for all in a manner consistent with the preeminent value we place on:	6	Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.
	7	Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.
	8	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.
	9	Vital services are fully accessible for all.
	10	Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.
	11	National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.
	12	Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.
	14	Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.
	15	Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.
	16	We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.
	17	We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.
the safety of all members of the nation and the stability, security and cohesion of society as a whole;	1	We are all safe.
	2	We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.
	3	Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.
	5	We act together as a compassionate society.
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information markets that are properly regulated for the purpose of promotion of truth;	4	We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing.
	8	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.
	9	Vital services are fully accessible for all.
	11	National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.
	12	Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.
	15	Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.
	16	We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.
national resilience, preparedness for crises and capacity to avert preventable crises;	1	We are all safe.

Table 1 How is the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> aligned with and supportive of Australian Values?		
Australian Values as expressed in the research on the views of Australians documented in <i>The People's Constitution</i>.	Elements of the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> aligning with and supporting the Values documented in <i>The People's Constitution</i>.	
<i>If we value this ...</i>	<i>... then which elements of the Vision will help us live those values? ...</i>	
	2	We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.
	5	We act together as a compassionate society.
	8	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.
	9	Vital services are fully accessible for all.
	10	Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.
	12	Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.
	13	As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.
	14	Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.
	16	We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.
	17	We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.
protection of the natural environment and conservation of natural resources;	1	We are all safe.
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the planet, its ecosystems and species diversity;	1 2 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	We are all safe. We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination. 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 for all. Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared. National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared. Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security 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. Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals. We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations. We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.
future generations and intergenerational equity;	1 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	We are all safe. We act together as a compassionate society. Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress. 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 for all. Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared. National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared. Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security 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.

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freedom of speech, expression, information, peaceful assembly and association, protest, choice in life path and partner, travel, belief, religion, secularity and atheism, political communication, freedom of the press, and freedom from discrimination, unlawful or arbitrary detention, political persecution, fear and want;	1	We are all safe.
	3	Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.
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	5	We act together as a compassionate society.
	6	Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.
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the contributions and dignity of everyone, regardless of employment status, disability and working life stage;	2	We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.
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the formation and ongoing support of a human-centred economy capable of providing continuous full employment and opportunities for meaningful work and life satisfaction;	1	We are all safe.
	3	Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.
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	16	
the formation and ongoing support of an environmentally sustainable economy capable of ensuring proper conservation of scarce natural resources;	1	We are all safe.
	2	We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.
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• decency, humanity, cooperation and integrity in our international citizenry;	1	We are all safe.
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self-determination through a voice in our own governance.	2 3 4 6 7 8 15 16 17	We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination. Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life. We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing. Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress. Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian 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. Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals. We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations. We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.

Are there any elements of the Vision for *Australia Together* which are not aligned with what Australians value and want?

No element of the Vision for *Australia Together* is at odds with any of the Australian values identified in *The People's Constitution*. This can be confirmed simply by asking if any element of the Vision would drag Australians away from being able to realise the central objective of the Statement of Australian Values, which is that **Australians wish to be able to chart a course to a future where peace prevails and the common wellbeing is secured for all.**

All elements of the Vision arc clearly towards not away from peace, wellbeing and security for all.

This arises from the fact that the Vision is structured as an inclusive Vision. It is purposely designed to avoid exclusion and ensure that everyone can safely find a place in Australian society regardless of their diversity – meaning that everyone can be confident of the wellbeing and security necessary for a fulfilling life.

Further proof that the Vision is aligned with and fully supportive of what Australians value and want could be most easily seen if we were to reverse the Vision. This would immediately indicate that if Australians adopted the reverse Vision they would be setting themselves on a course that will require them to live values that are the opposite of those described in *The People's Constitution*, none of which could result in a future where peace prevails and the common wellbeing is secured for all.

[Table 2](#) paints a picture of what the Vision for *Australia Together* would look like if we reversed it.

[Table 3](#) paints a picture of what Australian values would look like if we tried to live their opposites. Both tables describe a dystopic society in their right-hand columns. ACFP has been unable to find any evidence that Australians aspire to or value a dystopic society and no evidence of a desire to reverse the Vision for *Australia Together*.

As noted above, the Vision for *Australia Together*, in addition to its 17 main elements, also contains 57 Direction statements of the preferred and safe routes toward that Vision. These too can be checked for the likelihood of their conformance with Australian values by reversing each Direction statement. The Direction statements function as signposts to the future and have been selected to maximise the capacity of the Australian community to make the Vision a reality, travelling towards it via the safest paths.

[Table 4](#) shows that if we reversed the draft Direction statements in the Vision for *Australia Together*, we would travel towards a dystopic future that is the opposite of the Vision and at the same time expose Australians to unnecessary risk of harm.

The clear alignment between the Vision and Australian national values as described in *The People's Constitution* positions Australians to live their values and achieve what they want for the future. A reversal of the Vision would counteract Australian values.

Table 2 – If we reversed the Vision for *Australia Together*, could we expect to live our values and achieve what we want?

Australians may form their own conclusions as to whether they would prefer to reverse the Vision for *Australia Together*. Should they prefer to reverse the Vision there would be no prospect of living the Values described in *The People's Constitution*.

<i>Table 2</i> What would the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> look like if we reversed it?	
<i>The Draft Vision for Australia Together</i>	<i>A Reverse Vision</i>
We are all safe	We are unsafe, either from threat of war or military invasion, invasion of privacy, increased crime rates, risk of domestic abuse, traffic accidents, bushfire and flood, poverty, financial ruin, infectious disease, debilitating air quality, toxic water quality, workplace injury – etc.
We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination	We have made no place available in our Constitution or legislation for the oldest continuing civilisation on the planet. They still have no Voice. And we still carry on without having acknowledged a need to work as a unified, uplifted nation. Our human rights record and credibility plunges. We are unable to define ourselves with decency. There is no reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians and no settlement of matters of sovereignty.
Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life	We exclude people from participation. There is little or no sense of community or belonging. Volunteering is reduced. Transport and communications systems are inadequate for connecting communities.
We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing	Sports, creative arts and music play little role in our wellbeing. People succumb more frequently to illness, including mental illness. Life expectancy falls. Cultural heritage is forgotten. Opportunities for fulfilment, purpose and meaning in our lives are significantly reduced. The possibility of defining ourselves, culturally and as individuals, is diminished.
We act together as a compassionate society	Disadvantaged people suffer and grow in numbers. A survival of the fittest, dog-eat-dog culture prevails. People cease to help each other in crises. Refugees from climate change, war, torture and economic disasters are turned away and no reciprocal kindness is shown by other nations to Australia in our own disasters.
Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress	Inequality is continually growing and the economy is contracting due to the hollowing out of the middle class. Poverty is growing. Social and human capital are depleted. Business plays a socially irresponsible role instead of cooperating with workers as partners.
Diversity is positively appreciated as a basis for a successful Australian society	Diversity is a source of division. Social cohesion is fractured. Religion divides, not unites, communities. Contributions of all cultures, genders, faiths, sexual orientations are lost and both the financial and creative economies suffer.

<i>Table 2</i> What would the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> look like if we reversed it?	
<i>The Draft Vision for Australia Together</i>	<i>A Reverse Vision</i>
Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens though unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice	Optimism is lost. Self-actualisation and self-determination are impossible. Suicide and violence are endemic through a preponderance of shame. People have dissatisfying jobs in careers not suited to them and are precluded from contributing to national development by capitalising on their strengths as individuals. The nation is unable to draw on everyone's talents, so the economy suffers.
Vital services are fully accessible for all	Human dignity is lost for the aged, in family services, justice, health and employment. Opportunity is lost for all because universality of services has been destroyed.
Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared	Resource consumption is entirely excessive and national assets are not shared.
National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared	Meanness prevails and the economy contracts. The wealthiest 20% of households hold over 80% of all household wealth and the lowest 20% still control less than 1 per cent of all household wealth. The neoliberal project has been completed and is irreversible. Australians own few if any of the government services and assets they owned in 2020. If they can afford it, they pay a small number of excessively rich private interests (monopolies and oligopolies) for their education, health and other vital services. Redistribution of national income via a fair and equitable welfare system has ceased.
Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone	The economy sustains only the rich and poverty is widespread. Human capital is depleted. Our natural assets are depleted or lost. A once burgeoning eco-tourism sector is devastated. Other nations fail to invest in Australia due to the risk of investing in a country that fails to achieve sustainability. Living standards fall continuously for the majority of Australians.
As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society	Our international reputation for environmental and humane responsibility is lost. Our climate has heated by more than 4° Celsius due to our obstructive and destructive international participation. Vast areas of Australia are uninhabitable for humans. Ecosystems have collapsed and with them our economy.
Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival	The ecosystems on which human life depends are so depleted that human life can no longer be sustained.
Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals	Democracy is weak or overtaken by autocracy. People are too frightened to participate, let alone protest. Human rights are extinguished.
We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations	Authoritarianism is entrenched and the national interest is sacrificed to a rich and powerful elite. We can design no way out of our problems that will be heard. It is impossible to identify either truth or falsity.

<u>Table 2</u> What would the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> look like if we reversed it?	
<i>The Draft Vision for Australia Together</i>	<i>A Reverse Vision</i>
We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world	We are an international pariah. Or worse – the United Nations has collapsed and corporate and military alliances vanquish diplomacy and the rule of international law. International collaborative research has ceased. We have become a poor nation, more vulnerable than ever to invasion.

Table 3 – If we reversed the Statement of Australian Values, could we expect to make the Vision for *Australia Together* a reality?

The right-hand column in **Table 3** paints a picture of the character of Australian society in the future should we choose to reverse the Australian Values described in *The People's Constitution*, which are set out in the left-hand column.

Australians may form their own conclusions as to whether they would prefer to reverse the Values described in *The People's Constitution*. Should they prefer to reverse the Values there would be no prospect of achieving the Vision for *Australia Together*.

<u>Table 3</u> Imagining a different value set – What sort of society would we build?	
Probable preferred Australian national values in <i>The People's Constitution</i>	Values in reverse
<i>The focus is towards ...</i>	<i>The focus would be towards ...</i>
• Peace.	• War. • Militarism in the civil space.
• Honesty, integrity and ethics in all relationships, in governance and in corporate responsibility.	• Unethical behaviour – particularly damaging in lawmaking. • Enabling corporate theft, corruption in governance (private and public), entrenchment of the secret state and collapse of trust in parliaments, executive governments and democracy itself.
• Safety, security and stability.	• Destabilisation and exposure to risk, particularly climate and economic risk. • Exposure to political instability. • Exposure to domestic, civil and international violence.
• Open democracy where laws and policies serve the public interest.	• Secrecy and inaccessibility to vital information. • Laws which serve sectional interests.
• Universal human rights.	• Autocracy, tyranny or at the very least reduced participation in democracy. • Denial of freedoms. • Denial of human dignity. • Denial by governments of their obligation to protect human rights.
• Social harmony and appreciation of diversity.	• A restoration of white Australia and economic decline (due to a failure to capitalise fully on diversity). • Civil unrest driven by narrow and divisive ideologies.

<i>Table 3</i> Imagining a different value set – What sort of society would we build?	
Probable preferred Australian national values in <i>The People's Constitution</i>	Values in reverse
<i>The focus is towards ...</i>	<i>The focus would be towards ...</i>
- First Nations: - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including their culture, heritage, and wellbeing; - reconciliation with First Nations, truth telling, treaty and recognition of the centrality of their role in both our nationhood and our survival on this continent; - the sovereignty of First Nations, their ancestral tie to the land, and the coexistence of that sovereignty with that of all Australians; and - the right of First Nations to a Voice in the Constitution.	- A restoration of white Australia (including cultural and physical decimation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples). - Continued immaturity in the national character, continued denial of the legal and ethical faults in the nation's founding. - Continued injustice for the theft of a continent and stolen generations. - Continued denial of the possibility of a coexistence of sovereignties. - A refusal of reconciliation and recognition. - A denial of the right of Indigenous Australians to a Voice in the Constitution.
Equality and egalitarianism (for genders, ages, races, and those of diverse sexual orientation, disability, national and ethnic origin, religious persuasion, and wealth).	- A restoration of stratified authoritarianism, particularly white male dominated and religious patriarchy. - Wealth for the few, not for the many. - Rights for some, not for all.
Wellbeing for all.	Wellbeing for some or none.
Benevolence and compassion.	Cruelty.
Equal opportunity for all.	- Discrimination. - Increasing inequality. - The fair go for some, not all.
Social justice (meaning fair outcomes for all, fair sharing of national wealth, fair sharing of the burden and benefit of taxation, fair access to services, and equality before the law).	- Inequality in distribution of burden and benefits. - Inequality before the law. - Denial of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights.
Freedom (particularly freedom of speech, expression, information, peaceful assembly and association, protest, choice in life path and partner, travel, belief, religion, secularity and atheism, political communication, freedom of the press, and freedom from discrimination, unlawful or arbitrary detention, political persecution, fear and want).	- Forbidding self-expression, access to information, association and assembly, protest, movement (travel), positive contributions to a better future, a choice on what to read, study and where to work, a choice on who we love and a choice in what we believe. - Embedding discrimination. - Unjust detention and trial in secret (as opposed to open court). - Engendering fear. - Withholding the necessities of life, including food, shelter and connection.
Expansion of the mind and human creative capacity (that is, education valued for its own sake and information access that is unobstructed).	Insularity, narrowness of thought, suppression of creativity, inhumanity, and susceptibility to fake news.
Scientific intelligence and research capacity.	Denial of facts, susceptibility to misinformation, economic contraction, shorter life expectancy, poorer health and unchecked climate change.

<i>Table 3</i> Imagining a different value set – What sort of society would we build?	
Probable preferred Australian national values in <i>The People's Constitution</i>	Values in reverse
<i>The focus is towards ...</i>	<i>The focus would be towards ...</i>
Resilience (meaning preparedness for crises and an ability to overcome challenges and setbacks without social breakdown or an increase in inequality).	- Survival of the fittest. - Development of a dog-eat-dog value set. - Rejection of long term planning in favour of short term interest. - Complacency and reliance on luck.
Protection of the natural environment.	- Unsustainable resource exploitation and attendant economic collapse. - Loss of connection to the land.
The planet, its ecosystems and species diversity (for their own sake, not just for human benefit but in recognition of the essential inter-dependency of all living things).	Climate disaster, potential species annihilation (including human and civilisation extinction).
Future generations and intergenerational equity.	Destruction of the future of our children.
A human-centred and environmentally sustainable economy – one that works for, rather than debases, people, and one that conserves scarce natural and human resources and maximises the efficiency of labour.	- Abdication of the responsibility to establish a sustainable economy. - Preferring an economic structure that is inherently incapable of delivering our preferred quality of life and necessary wellbeing (that is preferring a neoliberal economic strategy that has been proven to be unsustainable, has diverted wealth away from the poorest towards the rich and has unnecessarily imposed involuntary unemployment and austerity). - An economy that debases people, squanders and destroys scarce natural and human resources and minimises the efficiency of labour.
Meaningful and fulfilling work.	- Drudgery – a life unfulfilled. - Declining productivity. - Abdication of the responsibility to ensure full employment. - Abdication of responsibility for the economic restructuring that will be required as technology and artificial intelligence replace human labour.
The contributions and dignity of everyone (regardless of employment status, disability and working life stage).	- Devaluation of unpaid working-age contributions (such as households caring for children, the aged and the disabled). - Devaluation of the unemployed and other welfare sector funded citizens (such as aged pensioners). Disregard of the importance of demand from this sector as a source of stimulus for a thriving and sustainable economy. - Devaluation of certain essential occupations, including nursing, aged care, childcare, cleaning and teaching.
Fairness and ethics in foreign and domestic trade and finance.	Global economic inequality (upon which would follow global economic decline).
Decency, humanity, cooperation and integrity in our international citizenry.	- Mass population displacement (instead of growth in the sustainability of developing nations). - Inhumanity in treatment of refugees.

<i>Table 3</i> Imagining a different value set – What sort of society would we build?	
Probable preferred Australian national values in <i>The People's Constitution</i>	Values in reverse
<i>The focus is towards ...</i>	<i>The focus would be towards ...</i>
Independence in national sovereignty.	- Cessation of cooperative research. - Dependence on unreliable alliances, conscription to the imperial aims of global powers, accession to other nations' wars, and exposure of the home front to inadequate defence. - Isolating Australia from connection with the Asian region. - Surrender of sovereignty.
Self-determination through a voice in our own governance.	- Autocracy, denying the participation of Australians in their own democracy. - Reinstatement of autocratic governance characteristic of the Hobbesian modern state. - Loss of control by the people over their future. - Driving people to despair and either self-destruction or aggression (or both).

Table 4 – If we reversed the 57 Direction statements in the Vision for *Australia Together*, could we expect to live our values and achieve what we want?

In *Australia Together*, there are 57 areas of public administration that have been identified as necessary for the wellbeing of Australians and their country. These have been organised into quadrants for:

- our society,
- our environment,
- our economy, and
- our governance.

For each area of administration, a signpost indicating the safest generic path towards the Vision has been drafted. There are:

- 16 signposts for our society,
- 19 signposts for our environment,
- 9 signposts for our economy, and
- 13 signposts for our governance.

Taken together, the 57 draft statements form a map of the safe paths to the preferred Vision. They are colour-coded to make it easy to follow the map. The signposts indicate what Australia is likely to become – as a society, and in its natural environment, economy and democratic governance – as we travel along our way towards the Vision if the signposts are followed. The reverse Directions indicate what Australia is likely to become if the signposts are reversed or simply not followed at all.

Australians may form their own conclusions as to whether they would prefer to reverse the Direction statements in the Vision for *Australia Together*. Should they prefer to reverse the Directions, there would be no prospect of living the Values described in *The People's Constitution*.

Note on using the signposts in community engagement

In any community engagement program where Australians may collaborate to revise or confirm the wording of the Direction statements, it is likely that they will face a degree of difficulty in coming to agreement about the wording of some signposts, whereas it might be expected that there will be somewhat less difficulty in coalescing around the wording of the 17 Vision elements. Australians tend to readily agree about the future they want to share, but they less readily agree about how to get there. Those signposts likely to pose some challenges as to wording are marked with an asterisk*.

Disagreement about Directions is to be expected in a country as diverse as Australia but *Australia Together* recognises diversity as a strength on which we should capitalise. Regardless of whether there is agreement about the value of diversity, in any discussions about signposts, facilitators and participants may more easily resolve conflict about the wording of any particularly contentious signpost by:

- focussing on choosing the signposts most likely to offer the **safest** passage to the preferred future; and
- considering the signposts as an integrated whole, recognising that the net beneficial effect of the full combination of signposts in terms of securing wellbeing will ensure that no-one is excluded from realising benefits overall and everyone will have a fair and equal chance of finding a place of safety, security and prosperity in the Australia of the future. In short, while some participants may not welcome the wording of some signposts, they may understand that they will still come out ahead overall.

Table 4 What would the Directions for <i>Australia Together</i> look like if we reversed them?			
<i>In our society:</i>			
Administrative area Map reference		By following the draft Direction Australia will become:	By following the reverse Direction Australia will become:
Soc 1	Safety	A safe home	An unsafe home
Soc 2	Indigenous heart	A land with an Indigenous heart*	A land without reconciliation with First Nations*
Soc 3	Belonging & inclusion	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling*	Exclusive, unwelcoming (deporting people, including citizens, and refusing access to services), and disabling instead of enabling the community as a whole*
Soc 4	Health & wellbeing	A place of optimal health & wellbeing	A population in poor physical and mental health
Soc 5	Education	A model of lifelong educational opportunity	An uneducated population with unequal access to opportunity and education of their choice
Soc 6	Equality	A society of equals	A society of politically and economically unequal people
Soc 7	Diversity	A success because of its diversity*	A failure because of a repudiation of diversity*
Soc 8	Women & LGBTIQ+	A success because of gender equality*	A failure because of gender inequality*
Soc 9	Housing	A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all	A land of growing homelessness and generations that can't afford a home

Table 4 What would the Directions for <i>Australia Together</i> look like if we reversed them?			
Soc 10	Family cohesion & community services	A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse	A land with increasing domestic violence and broken families
Soc 11	Early childhood care	A land without child disadvantage	A land with ever growing child disadvantage
Soc 12	Aged care & disability services	A sure provider of lifelong dignity	A land where there is no assured dignity in old age or for the disabled
Soc 13	Arts & culture	A wellspring of inspiration & creativity	A land without support for creativity
Soc 14	Police services	A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing	A land with irresponsible policing, trampling the rights of the powerless
Soc 15	Justice	Confident of justice for all	A land without justice
Soc 16	Emergency services	A society prepared & resilient in times of disaster	A nation courting constant disaster instead of preventing it
<i>In our environment:</i>			
<i>Administrative area</i> <i>Map reference</i>		<i>By following the draft Direction</i> <i>Australia will become:</i>	<i>By following the reverse</i> <i>Direction Australia will become:</i>
Env 1	Environmental advocacy	A leading global advocate for action on climate change*	Uncooperative on the international stage and a laggard in advocating for action on climate change*
Env 2	Climate change prevention	A net zero emissions nation*	A country that never reaches zero emissions and consumes more than its fair share of the remaining global carbon budget*
Env 3	Climate change adaptation	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation	A country overwhelmed by climate change
Env 4	Environmental regulation & approvals	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption	A nation living with an ecologically unsustainable economy, consuming more than the planet can support
Env 5	Environmental education	An environmentally educated community	An environmentally ignorant community, headed for disaster (without knowing it)
Env 6	Energy	A renewable energy superpower*	A renewable energy laggard and consequently an ecological and economic failure*
Env 7	Transport	Efficiently connected with zero-emissions transport	Unconnected and inefficient in transport
Env 8	Agriculture & fisheries	Environmentally & economically sustainable in agriculture & fisheries	An agricultural failure, living with desertification and food shortages or famines
Env 9	Fresh water supply	Confident of the safety & security of its water supplies	Perennially short of fresh water supplies
Env 10	Biodiversity	A biodiversity haven	A biodiversity burial ground
Env 11	Vegetation	A replanted & reforested land	A desert exposed to planetary heating and loss of agricultural yield
Env 12	Land & resource conservation	A protector of scarce resources	A polluter of natural resources

Table 4 What would the Directions for <i>Australia Together</i> look like if we reversed them?			
Env 13	Parks & open space	A provider of accessible national & urban parkland	A land of inaccessible or destroyed parklands
Env 14	Air & water quality	A pollution free biosphere	A pollution laden biosphere
Env 15	Marine protection	A marine wildlife haven	A marine burial ground
Env 16	Waste reduction & recycling	Regenerative by design in consumption & production	Unsustainable in consumption and production
Env 17	Architectural & cultural site heritage	A conservator of cultural & built heritage	A destroyer of heritage
Env 18	Cities planning	Multi-central in its cities, efficiently connecting people with jobs, health, education & recreation	A set of unconnected communities, and communities unconnected to essential services
Env 19	Regional planning	A land of thriving self-supporting regions	A land of dead regions
<i>In our economy:</i>			
<i>Administrative area</i> <i>Map reference</i>		<i>By following the draft Direction</i> <i>Australia will become:</i>	<i>By following the reverse</i> <i>Direction Australia will become:</i>
Econ 1	Economic planning, composition, governance & functioning	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability & fair functionality	An economy with increasing unsustainable consumption – growth without wellbeing
Econ 2	Employment planning, industrial reform & economic transition	A model of employment planning & justice in industrial reform & economic transitions, & offering full employment in sustainable industries of wellbeing	A country with employment injustice, drudgery and low pay in work (or no work at all), unable to anticipate and navigate transitions from one economy to the next and to provide full employment in all essential industries of wellbeing.
Econ 3	Equitable improvement in living standards	A country where economic opportunity & the benefits of growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all	A country with growing income insecurity and inequality, wealth inequality, and very poor living standards
Econ 4	National wealth generation & sharing	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth	A nation unfairly raising its wealth and not sharing it at all
Econ 5	Market regulation & competition policy	A strong regulator of fairness in markets, creating confidence for investors in sustainable production*	A neoliberal economy with little or no market regulation, heavily financialised and unproductive*
Econ 6	Government competitive business participation	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation*	An economy with no capacity to moderate the market excesses of the private sector and the poor wages it provides*
Econ 7	Science, research, innovation & collaboration	A collaborative, intelligent nation	A backward nation
Econ 8	Technology development & digitisation	Enabled in meeting the communication & information demands of the future	Lacking the information necessary for economic development
Econ 9	International economic engagement & trade	Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement	Unfair and unethical in trading, procurement and workplace conditions (a gulag)

Table 4 What would the Directions for <i>Australia Together</i> look like if we reversed them?			
<i>In our governance:</i>			
Administrative area Map reference		<i>By following the draft Direction Australia will become:</i>	<i>By following the reverse Direction Australia will become:</i>
Gov 1	Strength of democracy	A proactive participatory democracy*	An autocracy with an excluded community that has no political influence (lobbyists and corporations have excessive influence)*
Gov 2	National values & identity	A nation knowing & affirming decency	A nation whose values affirm indecency for its members
Gov 3	Human & other rights	A nation with avowed rights for all, consistent with international law*	A nation of people without human rights and without equality of access to the protection of human rights*
Gov 4	Constitutional reform	A free, self-governing, modern nation	A totalitarian, undemocratic, backward nation
Gov 5	Transparency, openness & accountability	Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions*	A nation whose governments are unaccountable, secretive and uncommitted to the people*
Gov 6	Government ethics	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct	A nation of unethical governments
Gov 7	Public service independence & excellence	Committed to public service independence & excellence	A nation whose governments are not committed to service in the public interest or act contrary to the public interest
Gov 8	Electoral system & funding reform	Protected from undue sectional influence in elections*	A nation of rigged elections, and corrupt governments, beholden to corporations, not the electors*
Gov 9	Corporate & NGO responsibility	A nation outlawing corporate greed & where private sector business practice & ethics serve the public good*	A nation permitting corporate greed and resource exploitation with no recompense to the public*
Gov 10	Free communications policy & regulation	A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market*	A suppressor of both truth and freedom, and a country where mis- and disinformation are rife*
Gov 11	International participation & global justice	A just & cooperative participant on the global stage*	Unjust and uncooperative in international relations, global resource sharing, and trade*
Gov 12	Peace & security	A nation assured of enduring peace*	A nation constantly at war or seeking to start conflicts*
Gov 13	Humanitarian effort	A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion*	A small nation lacking all compassion and rejecting the presence and rights of a much larger world population*

Further questions may be forwarded to ACFP at info@austcfp.com.au
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