



# Annual Report

March 2022–June 2023



AUSTRALIAN  
DEMOCRACY  
NETWORK

**We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and live and pay our respects to Elders past and present.**

**We recognise that this land always was and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land and sovereignty has never been ceded.**

**We believe that the inclusion of First Nations perspectives, justice and reconciliation are central to any vision of rebuilding a healthy and vibrant democracy for Australia.**

# Contents.

<b>About us.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Our mission.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Our story.</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Our work.</b>	<b>4</b>
Stronger Charities Alliance	
#OurDemocracy	
Protect the Right to Protest in Australia	
Responsive work	
Capacity building	
<b>Our People.</b>	<b>6</b>
Board Members	
Our Staff	
<b>Message from the Executive Director.</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Snapshot statistics.</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Key campaign updates.</b>	<b>11</b>
Stronger Charities Alliance	
#OurDemocracy	
Protect the Right to Protest in Australia	
<b>Financials.</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Why I Give.</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Thank you.</b>	<b>36</b>

## About us.

Australian Democracy Network is creating a healthy Australian democracy that puts people and the planet first. We bring people and organisations together to campaign for the changes that make our democracy more fair, open, participatory, and accountable.

## Our mission.

Our mission is to create a thriving democracy in which civil society is robust and vibrant; public debate is informed, fair and diverse; citizens are engaged; government is clean, open and accountable; and the wellbeing of people and the planet comes first.



Civil society representatives attending a Government Relations Masterclass co-hosted by ADN and Centre for Australian Progress in 2022

## Our story.

We know that the health of our democracy impacts the outcomes we are able to achieve on every important issue, from health to human rights to action on the climate crisis. And we know that to win the changes that can shift a whole system, we need collective power, strategically directed.

Australian Democracy Network (ADN) was created to meet that need.

ADN launched in February 2020 as a joint project of the Human Rights Law Centre, Australian Conservation Foundation and Australian Council of Social Service to fill a unique role in our change-making sector.

We are a hub where diverse organisations can come together in strategic collaborations to win the changes that make our democracy work better for all of us.

Since launching, ADN has taken on the convening of Stronger Charities Alliance, launched the groundbreaking #OurDemocracy collaboration of people and organisations working on the problem of state capture, launched a new strategic collaboration with the Human Rights Law Centre to protect protest rights, and helped civil society partners work together to defeat the anti-democratic voter ID legislation under the Morrison Government.

In the last four years, we have grown into a small but mighty organisation, convening three powerful alliances and working with hundreds of organisational partners and thousands of individuals.

Democracy needs to be constantly renewed and renegotiated – there's no such thing as a stable democracy; every democracy is fluid. That's why we will keep bringing people and organisations together to campaign for the changes that make our democracy more transparent, representative, fair and open. We'll empower people across the country to be part of the decisions that impact all our lives. We'll make sure that our vibrant civic space is protected. When we make our democracy better, we're making it possible for everything else to get better, too.

# Our work.

Our flagship campaigns are:

## Stronger Charities Alliance

Stronger Charities Alliance (SCA) is an alliance of over 120 charities, formed in 2018 in response to several bills that would have silenced charities on issues of national importance. Formerly known as Hands Off Our Charities, the alliance has a vision of a thriving not-for-profit sector where charities are empowered to advocate for lasting change for our communities.

## #OurDemocracy

The #OurDemocracy campaign is a nationwide movement of people and organisations who want a healthy Australian democracy that works for us, not just for the powerful few. Our Framework for a Fair Democracy sets out how we can strengthen our democracy and protect against corporate capture.

## Protect the Right to Protest in Australia

Protect the Right to Protest in Australia creates the infrastructure and coalitions we need to stop new anti-protest laws from being passed by parliaments around the country and the preconditions for building a campaign to wind back existing state based anti-protest laws.



Executive Director Saffron Zomer presents the **Voices for Change** report from the Stronger Charities Alliance outside Parliament House, Canberra

## Responsive work

When civil society needs to respond collectively, ADN is there to facilitate a strategic, rapid response from the sector.

## Capacity building

We believe in the value of civil society to a healthy democracy. ADN provides the ‘connective tissue’ that allows our charities to work together in a strategic coordinated way, increasing our collective impact manifold. From technical briefings, mentoring, horizon scanning, and fostering connections, ADN builds the capacity of our change making sector to create a positive future.



# Our People.

## Board Members



### Elizabeth Jennings

Commencing work in banking, Elizabeth moved into the government and not-for-profit sectors. She was Chief Financial Officer at Victoria Legal Aid, Head of Strategic Finance at World Vision Australia and the Director of Corporate and Community Services at the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Elizabeth holds degrees in Commerce and Arts, a Master of Assessment and Evaluation from the University of Melbourne, and a Master of Business from Swinburne University. She is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



### Brendan Sydes

Brendan is an environmental lawyer with a background in not-for-profit management, policy advocacy and law reform. He was the principal lawyer and CEO at Environmental Justice Australia from 2005 to 2020 and now works as a policy adviser with a national environmental organisation. Brendan also serves as a board member with a range of not-for-profit organisations. He is a Senior Honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne Law School, where he teaches environmental law.



### Tim Watts

Tim is an executive in the K-12 education technology sector with experience spanning start-ups, private equity-backed ventures and major non-profit organisations. He started his career in journalism and has served on the boards of Environment Victoria and the carsharing service Flexicar. A graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, he holds degrees in economics and political science from the University of Melbourne and Boston's Northeastern University.



### Upeka Kumarasinghe

Upeka is a fundraising professional and has worked for not-for-profits for over 15 years. She has helped raise funds for the Arts in Victoria at Melbourne Theatre Company, Arts Centre Melbourne and Melbourne Festival. She has worked in bequests at Australian Conservation Foundation and has established a donation program at Remember The Wild. A graduate of Monash University, she holds degrees in Immunology, Pharmacology and Public Health.

**Saffron Zomer – is a Board Member and also Executive Director (see p7)**



## Our Staff



### **Saffron Zomer – Executive Director**

Saffron is a lawyer, campaigner and political strategist with over a decade of experience leading law reform campaigns. Prior to the Australian Democracy Network, Saffron was Government Relations Manager at the Australian Conservation Foundation. She spent several years living and working in the US, holding various campaign and government relations roles.

In 2017, Saffron co-founded and led the Hands Off Our Charities Alliance, which secured critical changes to 2017 Electoral Act amendments to protect the rights of civil society organisations to engage in advocacy.



### **Prema Menon – General Manager**

Prema has worked in project and operations management for 15 years across private, government, non-profit, grassroots and community sectors.

Prema believes in collaboratively building capability and systems to help others fulfil their potential. They have witnessed first-hand the cost of restrictions on political pluralism, participation, and civil liberties. This experience strongly motivates Prema's desire to contribute to a healthy democracy.



### **Ash Berdebes – Media Advisor and Creative Lead**

Ash is a for-purpose strategic communicator with a decade of experience. She has worked with prominent Federal politicians and a range of environmental and social organisations to promote change in the direction of intergenerational flourishing.

Ash values opportunities to link leaders, media, knowledge-holders and communities together to advance democratic participation, social equity and climate action.



### **Bethany Koch – #OurDemocracy Campaign Coordinator**

Beth is an Organiser and Campaigner who has worked with faith communities, First Nations leaders, fishers, farmers and environmentalists to campaign on issues like global poverty, climate justice, gender justice, nature protection and river health.

Prior to ADN, Beth worked for the Australian Conservation Foundation. Beth coordinates the #OurDemocracy campaign, working with partners across civil society to get big money out of politics.



### **Hassan Nasir Mirbahar – Campaign Manager & Strategist**

Hassan is a democratic governance advocate. He has worked with civil society, parliamentarians and governments on parliamentary, human rights and electoral reforms in Pakistan, Liberia, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Libya.

Recently, he worked with the United Nations Development Program in Fiji, where he supported parliamentary development in fourteen Pacific Island Nations.

Hassan assisted Pakistan's multi-party Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms in undertaking reforms for more inclusive and credible elections in Pakistan.



### **Isabella Morand** – Engagement Coordinator

Isabella has a background as an organiser, campaigner, and activist educator in Australia's climate movement and broader social justice spaces.

She's dedicated to developing leadership in others, so that together we can build powerful movements to make our communities stronger, hold decision makers accountable, and protect our beautiful planet.



### **Ophelia Davenport** – Digital Organiser

Ophelia is a changemaker who has worked for several not-for-profits, including the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and, more recently, Australian Conservation Foundation.

After completing studies in Environmental Geography, Ophelia discovered people-powered activism through volunteering across a number of social movements. She believes in fostering community spirit and leveraging collective action to stand up to unjust systems that harm people and the planet.



### **Ray Yoshida** – Democracy Campaigner

Ray is an experienced organiser, campaigner and change maker with a decade of experience in Australian social movements. Previously, he was the co-director of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Australia's largest youth advocacy organisation.

More recently, he played a leading role in the Hands Off Our Charities alliance, where he successfully coordinated a campaign to stop draconian attempts to silence Australian charities.



### **Tapashya Piya** – Campaigns Officer

Tapashya is from Nepal and has lived in Melbourne for the past ten years. She is passionate about fair rights for immigrants and refugees in Australia and all around the world. She firmly believes in helping people amplify their voices and giving them a platform to exercise their rights.

She previously worked at Plan International Australia and Kids Under Cover in the fundraising department and has aspirations to return to Nepal and empower the youth and children.

MESSAGE FROM THE

# Executive Director.



As I write these words, we are six weeks away from voting in a referendum to establish a Voice for First Nations people, 13 months into the opening of the first Australian Parliament that was elected through an ‘integrity and climate election’, and three and a half years from the start of a global pandemic that tested all our structures of governance and our trust in those we elected to lead us. Democracy is contested and in flux all around the world.

We created Australian Democracy Network to drive more and better collaboration between people and organisations who want a healthy Australian democracy that puts people and the planet first. Since launching in 2020, with the support of our generous donors, we’ve seen that vision come to life. We work with hundreds of civil society partners and thousands of individuals; we convene two flagship alliances, #OurDemocracy, and the Stronger Charities Alliance, two genuinely groundbreaking collaborations working towards systems level changes to strengthen our democracy so all of us can make progress on our issues. We’ve also launched a new collaboration to Protect the Right to Protest in Australia, bringing to this critical issue our skills in building campaign networks, connecting policy and campaign strategy, and supporting community voices.

We’re also committed to building the skills of others working to strengthen our democracy so that our movement is big and powerful enough to make real change. In partnership with Assistant Minister Andrew Leigh and our friends at the Centre for Australian Progress, we run an annual Government Relations Masterclass at Parliament House. This year, we will train 50 changemakers in effective political advocacy, who will then use these skills to make sure democracy works for the many, not just the few.

We are small, but we are already making an impact: at home, where we have changed government laws and policies for the better, and globally, where people working for democracy in Europe and Africa are asking us how best to focus their efforts. The year ahead looks busy and full of opportunity, with electoral law reform, lobbying reform, truth in political advertising, and merit based political appointments all topical and moving at different stages through our parliamentary process. As the right to protest is being quickly eroded across our states, we’re working to mitigate threats and wind back existing anti-protest laws. As charities and not-for-profits assume a less defensive posture under a Labor government, we’re working on reforms that empower and enable the sector to serve their communities and causes of issues of national importance.

Thank you to those of you who support this organisation; together, we have built a wonderful team, forged incredible alliances and created an innovative model for transforming democracy.

**Saffron Zomer**

# Snapshot statistics.





Stronger Charities Alliance members with Assistant Minister Charities, Dr Andrew Leigh MP, and Assistant Shadow Minister, Senator Dean Smith, at the launch of Voices for Change Survey in March 2023



## Stronger Charities Alliance

Charities and not-for-profits do more than provide services to people in need – they play an essential role in improving the health of our democracy, people and planet through advocacy. With advocacy, the sector informs and shapes policies and public debate on critical issues like climate change, aged care, asylum seekers and, in ADN’s case, democracy.

But in 2017, the sector’s ability to do this important work was under attack when three government bills threatened to silence charity advocacy on issues of national importance. Organising the collective strength of our broad charity sector in the Hands Off Our Charities campaign proved to be absolutely critical in defeating this threat.

Following the government change, our Alliance has transformed from a defensive to a proactive force, becoming the Stronger Charities Alliance.

It’s important that we continue to organise the collective power of this sector that employs over 10.5% of the Australian workforce as they serve countless communities and causes.

Through convening the Stronger Charities Alliance, ADN unifies sector voices and seeks legislative reforms that empower charities to advocate for lasting change. We scan for threats to the sector and actively work to remove barriers charitable organisations face as they undertake their crucial public interest work.

To achieve these aims, the Alliance undertook the following activities in the past year:

- Through the Voices for Change Survey, the Alliance established an evidence base on the state of charity sector advocacy. Compared to similar past surveys, the findings highlighted charities felt more confident about their advocacy, but they were still worried about bottlenecks such as an unfriendly legal and regulatory space.

- The Alliance brought together more than 50 charity sector leaders to launch the Voices for Change Survey in March 2023, with the Assistant Charities Minister, the Assistant Shadow Charities Minister, and the Greens Spokesperson on the social sector speaking at the occasion.
- Building on the survey, the Alliance developed its campaign strategy for the next 18 months after consultations with sector experts and its members, setting out the Alliance's three key priorities and actions to achieve them.
- The Alliance coordinated five submissions and letters to different government reform processes, including a response to the interim report by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM). Over 65 alliance members signed most of these policy responses.
- Partnering with ACOSS, the Alliance briefed the sector on legal and regulatory space for charity advocacy around the Voice Referendum. Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commissioner Sue Woodward AM and Australia Electoral Commission's Assistant Commission Tracey Vassallo and her team spoke to around 100 charity representatives.
- The Alliance briefed around 120 charity and not-for-profit representatives on the interim report by JSCEM. The briefing was organised in partnership with #OurDemocracy and Australian Progress.

Stronger Charities Alliance approaches the coming year with a diverse representation of over 120 Australian charities, fortified by a robust strategy bolstered by the backing of advocates across our Federal Parliament.

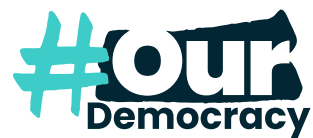
We stand poised to enact profound reforms that will empower Australian charities and not-for-profit organisations to sculpt systemic change for their causes and communities, charting a transformative course forward for a stronger, more equitable Australia.



Ray Yoshida and Hassan Mirbahar, the outgoing and incoming Alliance Coordinators respectively, at the launch of the Voices for Change Survey



Steering committee for the #OurDemocracy campaign at our May 2023 strategy days. Organisations represented include the Australian Democracy Network, the Australian Conservation Foundation, Transparency International Australia, the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and the Human Rights Law Centre



## #OurDemocracy

In a healthy democracy, debate is fair and open, and decisions reflect the needs of our communities. In a healthy democracy, each citizen’s vote holds equal value irrespective of their bank balance. However, we know our democracy doesn’t always work this way.

Big corporations are skewing our democratic processes to win political outcomes that put their profits ahead of people and the planet. Harmful industries like gambling, fossil fuels and alcohol spend eye-watering sums on donations to political parties to discourage politicians from regulating them properly and on hiring professional lobbyists to cosy up to politicians—ministers and their staff roll in and out of industry roles in a revolving door of influence.

The electoral threat posed by these wealthy industries and individuals can be enough to deter our elected decision makers from making decisions in the public interest. These interconnected tactics used by harmful industries are referred to as ‘cash for access’. Without much-needed reform, the wealthiest individuals and corporations will continue to have an outsized influence on our elected representatives, corrupting our democracy.

Key campaign updates

This past year, the cash-for-access problem has been the key focus of the #OurDemocracy alliance, which the Australian Democracy Network convenes. Changes to campaign finance reforms come around once in a generation, and we are working to build social and political pressure for fair, ambitious reforms in this term of government.

In the past 18 months, we have:

- **Continued to develop and resource the #OurDemocracy Alliance**

ADN has built an alliance of 63 organisations who have endorsed the ‘Framework for a Fair Democracy’: our set of best practice reforms to get big money out of politics. To deliver the campaign, we convene a smaller steering group of 5 organisations, coordinated by ADN’s Campaign Coordinator, who in 2023 has led work to develop the team structure, prioritise partner engagement to develop a detailed policy model and agree on a strategic plan.

- **Set the expectation for candidates elected in the Integrity Election**

2022 was the integrity election. We ran community surveys, commissioned polling, held local and national policy forums, and worked behind the scenes to strengthen major party policy platforms and the positions of the ‘teal’ independent candidates. The result was the election of a Government with a clear mandate to act on integrity and a range of vocal champions for the cause on the crossbench.

- **Influenced JSCEM’s inquiry into the 2022 Federal Election**

ADN influenced the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters’ inquiry into the 2022 Federal election to make recommendations for ambitious campaign finance reform. We mobilised over 300 supporters to make submissions to the inquiry and over 600 to email their MP in support of ambitious reforms; developed a scorecard comparing their interim report to our policy principles; and appeared before the committee as the voice of the charity sector to ensure that charity voices are protected. #OurDemocracy partners were frequently quoted in JSCEM’s interim report, demonstrating that we had a clear influence on the ambitious reform that was recommended.

- **Exposed & elevated the problem of cash-for-access while surfacing the solutions**

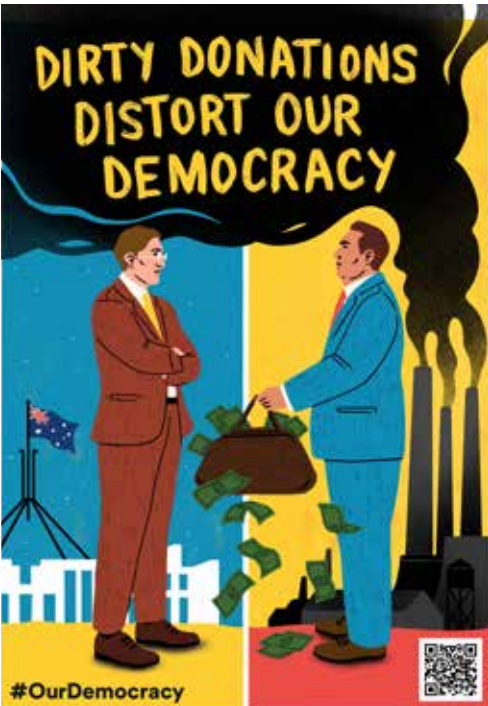
We’re playing a role in changing the narrative about money in politics by using key moments to elevate our analysis of the problem and our policy solutions. In the last 18 months, we have done this work by hosting public events with expert speakers, mobilising supporters to take action and engage their decision makers, and getting stories in the media.

Looking forward, we will continue to build pressure on the government to deliver ambitious integrity reforms. Changes to campaign finance laws only come around once a generation, and they are happening next year. We will be working to ensure these laws get big money out of politics while protecting charitable advocacy and keeping parliament open to new entrants. We will also aim to establish an inquiry into lobbying reform so that the public can see the extent of lobbyist power and why greater regulation is needed.





ADN supporters and their MP Kylea Tink at one of the #OurDemocracy Morning tea events in November 2022



Left: Campaign poster designed and displayed throughout Melbourne and Sydney during April 2022



Right: #OurDemocracy alliance members at the JSCEM hearings in 2023

# Key campaign updates



**RAY YOSHIDA**  
AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY NETWORK

Ray Yoshida speaking on SBS news about the South Australian protest laws, 30 May 2023

## Protect the Right to Protest in Australia

Throughout our history protests have played a crucial role in struggles for justice, a fairer society and a thriving environment. A vital tool with which people and communities challenge institutionalised power, no political system can claim to be a democracy without the right to protest.

But in Australia, this right is under threat. In the past decade, 14 different anti-protest laws have been passed by state parliaments across the country. Governments are increasingly choosing to respond to protests not by listening to genuine community concerns but by cracking down on dissent, particularly for protests about the climate crisis.

Over the past 18 months, ADN has filled a gap within civil society by coordinating movement-wide responses to new proposed laws, especially in Tasmania (the Police Offences Amendment (Workplace Protection) Bill 2022) and in South Australia (Summary Offences (obstruction of Public Places) Amendment 2023).

In each state, we worked closely with a broad range of local and national groups, including environmental organisations, grassroots activists, unions and social service charities, to develop a shared advocacy strategy to stop the proposed laws. The strategies have involved a multi-pronged effort of lobbying, media engagement, and activating community members and constituents.

In the past 18 months, we've:

- run half a dozen civil society briefings with hundreds of participants from over a hundred different organisations;
- published two open letters with over 90 organisational signatories; and,
- published four newspaper and radio ads calling on state governments to protect the right to protest.



Coverage of Tasmanian anti-protest bill in *The Mercury*, 25 May 2022



Left: Civil society open letter published in *The Mercury*, 26 May 2022

Right: Digital copy of 2 page ad run in the *Adelaide Advertiser*, 30 May 2023

Key campaign updates

While the campaigns weren't able to stop the laws from being made, in both Tasmania and South Australia, we secured important amendments that mitigated some of the most harmful elements of the legislation.

Through these efforts, we've learnt that in order to protect the right to protest civil society needs to be proactive, not just reactive. Part of this involves developing the infrastructure that's needed for us to both stop new anti-protest laws when they're proposed and also wind back the worst of the existing laws. This infrastructure looks like:

- a risk framework and ongoing monitoring of risk factors;
- networks in focus jurisdictions that span unions, not-for-profits across multiple sectors, the legal community, politicians and political party members, and grassroots groups;
- shared policy principles that can be used defensively and proactively; and,
- shared evidence-based messaging that connects the issue to widely held values.

Throughout the coming year we'll develop this important movement infrastructure while getting ahead of potential new protest laws in the most at-risk jurisdictions, including Western Australia, so that we can keep civic space open across the country.



Civil society leaders and parliamentarians from SA Best and the Greens – Monday 29 May

# Financials.

---

## Australian Democracy Network Ltd

ABN 35 655 372 133

Financial Statements  
For the Period Ended 30 June 2023

---

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd  
Directors' Report  
For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

Your directors submit the financial report of Australian Democracy Network Limited for the period ended 30 June 2023.

**Directors**

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of the financial period are:

- Brendan Sydes, Board Director
- Elizabeth Jennings, Board Director
- Saffron Zomer, Board Director
- Tim Watts, Board Director (from October 2022)
- Upeka Kumarasinghe, Board Director (from December 2022)

Directors have been in office since the start of the period to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the entity during the financial period were:

- advancing education, specifically in relation to democracy and civil society;
- promoting changes to law and policy that will advance public welfare by
- promoting a democracy and robust civil society; and
- benefiting the public through promoting a thriving democracy in which civil society is robust; public debate is informed, fair and diverse; citizens are engaged; and government is accountable.

No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activity occurred during the financial period.

**Significant Changes**

NA

**Operating Result**

The surplus of the entity for the financial period amounted to \$489,238.

**After balance date events**


There has not been any matter or circumstance occurring subsequent to the end of the financial period that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the entity, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the entity in future financial years.

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd  
Directors' Report  
For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

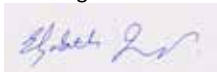
**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

A copy of the lead auditor's independence declaration as required under section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 is attached to this financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Brendan Sydes  
Secretary  
August 2023



Elizabeth Jennings  
Treasurer  
August 2023



**SDJ Audit Pty Ltd t/a SDJA**  
**ABN:** 11 624 245 334  
**P:** PO Box 324  
West Pennant Hills NSW 2125  
**M:** 0428 074 081  
**E:** [info@sdja.com.au](mailto:info@sdja.com.au)  
**W:** [www.sdja.com.au](http://www.sdja.com.au)

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Directors of Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the audit of Australian Democracy Network Ltd for the period ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A rectangular stamp with the letters "SDJA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**SDJA**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Joyce".

**Simon Joyce**  
Director  
August 2023  
Sydney, New South Wales

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**  
**For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

	Notes	Period Ended 30-Jun-23 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Revenue from contracts with customers	4	1,194,400
Other income	5	495,602
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b><u>1,690,002</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration expenses		(365,421)
Depreciation		(15)
Employee benefits		(830,458)
Lease payments for short-term/low-value leases		(4,417)
Net foreign exchange losses		(453)
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b><u>(1,200,764)</u></b>
<b>Net surplus for the period</b>		<b><u>489,238</u></b>
Income tax expense		-
<b>Surplus after income tax</b>		<b><u>489,238</u></b>
Other comprehensive income		-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b><u>489,238</u></b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at 30 June 2023**

	Notes	2023 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	6	573,463
Trade and other receivables	7	24,731
Other assets	8	8,289
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>606,483</b>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	9	2,373
<b>Non-current assets</b>		<b>2,373</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>608,856</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Trade and other payables	10	91,872
Provisions	11	27,746
<b>Current liabilities</b>		<b>119,618</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>119,618</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>489,238</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated funds		489,238
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>489,238</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
**For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

	Notes	Accumulated Funds \$	Total Equity \$
Balance at 10 March 2022		-	-
Surplus for the period		489,238	<b>489,238</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		<u>489,238</u>	<u><b>489,238</b></u>
Balance at 30 June 2023		<u><u>489,238</u></u>	<u><u><b>489,238</b></u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

	Notes	Period Ended 30-Jun-23 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from funders, donors, customers and others		1,792,133
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,220,390)
Interest received		4,108
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>575,851</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(2,388)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(2,388)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		573,463
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial period		-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial period</b>	6	<b>573,463</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

**1. General information**

The financial statements cover Australian Democracy Network Ltd, an entity incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards and a registered charity under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

These financial statements cover the financial period from 10 March 2022 to 30 June 2023.

The entity's principal activity is to create a thriving democracy which brings civil society organisations (with an interest in democratic integrity, advocacy and civil liberties) together to share information, resources and strategy.

Principal place of business is 143 London Circuit, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 2601.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on August 2023.

**2. Changes in accounting policies**

**New and revised standards that are effective for these financial statements**

A number of new and revised standards became effective for the first time to annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2021, the key ones of which are summarised below:

*AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities*

This Standard sets out a new, separate disclosure Standard to be applied by all entities that are reporting under Tier 2 of the Differential Reporting Framework in AASB 1053. This Standard has been developed based on a new methodology and principles to be used in determining the Tier 2 disclosures that are necessary for meeting user needs, to replace the current Reduced Disclosure Requirements (RDR) framework. The adoption of this accounting standard has not had a material impact on the entity.

**3. Summary of significant accounting policies**

**Financial reporting framework**

The general purpose financial statements of the entity have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

**Statement of compliance**

The general purpose financial statements of the entity have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of this report are as follows:

The financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars (\$AUD), which is also the functional currency of the company.

**Revenue from contracts with customers**

Revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the entity expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer
2. Identify the performance obligations
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations
5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred

Other revenue

For any revenue streams that are not defined as contracts with customers, then the revenue is recognised when the entity gains control, economic benefits are probable and the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably.

**Operating expenses**

Operating expenses are recognised in profit or loss upon utilisation of the service or at the date of their origin.

**Income tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax as a registered charity under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

**Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**Trade and other receivables**

Trade receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for expected losses.

**Property, plant and equipment**

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<b>Class of fixed asset</b>	<b>Depreciation rate</b>
Plant and equipment	33%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

**Impairment of assets**

At the end of each reporting period the entity determines whether there is evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

**Trade and other payables**

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the entity prior to the end of the financial period and which are unpaid. Due to the short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

**Provision for employee benefits**

Provision is made for the entity's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

**Significant judgement in applying accounting policies**

When preparing the financial statements, the Board of Directors undertake a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions about the recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

**Estimation uncertainty**

Information about estimates and assumptions that have the most significant effect on recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses is provided where applicable. Actual results may be substantially different.

Australian Democracy Network Ltd  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023

	Period Ended 30-Jun-23 \$
<b>4. Revenue from contracts with customers</b>	
<u>Revenue recognised over time</u>	
Grants and tied donations	1,194,400
	<u>1,194,400</u>
<b>How the entity recognises revenue</b>	
<u>Grants and tied donations</u>	
If conditions are attached to a grant and/or tied donation, revenue is recognised when the entity satisfies those conditions.	
<b>5. Other income</b>	
Donations	428,245
Interest income	4,108
Other revenue	63,249
	<u>495,602</u>
	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>
<b>6. Cash and cash equivalents</b>	
Cash at bank	573,463
	<u>573,463</u>
<b>7. Trade and other receivables</b>	
<b>Current</b>	
Trade receivables	19,526
Net GST receivable	5,103
Other debtors	102
	<u>24,731</u>
<b>8. Other assets</b>	
<b>Current</b>	
Prepayments	8,289
	<u>8,289</u>



**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

	<b>2023</b>
	\$
<b>9. Property, plant and equipment</b>	
Plant and equipment at cost	2,388
Plant and equipment accumulated depreciation	(15)
	<u><b>2,373</b></u>

	<b>Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
	\$	\$
Net carrying amount 1 July 2022	-	-
Additions	2,388	2,388
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation	(15)	(15)
Net carrying amount 30 June 2023	<u><b>2,373</b></u>	<u><b>2,373</b></u>

	<b>2023</b>
	\$
<b>10. Trade and other payables</b>	
<b>Current</b>	
Trade payables	56,818
Accrued expenses	35,054
	<u><b>91,872</b></u>

<b>11. Provisions</b>	
<b>Current</b>	
Provision for employee benefits	27,746
	<u><b>27,746</b></u>

**12. Related parties**

The entity's related parties include its key management personnel and related entities. Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties.

	<b>Period Ended</b>
	<b>30-Jun-23</b>
	\$
<u>Key management personnel compensation</u>	
Total key management compensation	318,706

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

	<b>Period Ended 30-Jun-23</b>
<b>13. Remuneration of auditors</b>	
<u>SDJA</u>	
Audit of financial report	6,000
Assistance with financial report preparation	<u>1,500</u>
	<b><u>7,500</u></b>

**14. Commitments**

The entity had no material unrecognised contractual commitments as at 30 June 2023.

**15. Contingent liabilities**

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2023.

**16. Subsequent events**

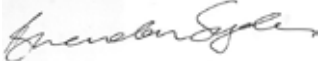
No adjusting or significant non-adjusting events have occurred between the reporting date and the date of authorisation of these accounts.

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd  
Directors' Declaration  
For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

The Directors declare that in the Directors' opinion:

- a) the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
  - i) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the period ended on that date; and
  - ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and
- b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.



Brendan Sydes  
Secretary  
August 2023



Elizabeth Jennings  
Treasurer  
August 2023



SDJ Audit Pty Ltd t/a SDJA  
 ABN: 11 624 245 334  
 P: PO Box 324  
 West Pennant Hills NSW 2125  
 M: 0428 074 081  
 E: [info@sdja.com.au](mailto:info@sdja.com.au)  
 W: [www.sdja.com.au](http://www.sdja.com.au)

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd  
 Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Australian Democracy Network Ltd  
 For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Australian Democracy Network Ltd (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the period then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Australian Democracy Network Ltd has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the period then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information is the directors' report accompanying the financial report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

**Australian Democracy Network Ltd  
Independent Auditor’s Report to the Members of Australian Democracy Network Ltd  
For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023**

**Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the registered entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the registered entity’s financial reporting process.

**Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/>. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

*SDJA*

**SDJA**

*Simon Joyce*

**Simon Joyce**  
Director  
August 2023  
Sydney, New South Wales

## Why I Give.

I was working as a university student enrichment officer when the 2019–2020 bushfires hit. Despite being already concerned by climate change, the black summer bushfires made me deeply alarmed. It was no longer some far-off future problem for the next generation to solve. It had become an immediate crisis impacting us right now. I decided to switch careers to work on this problem full time, which included creating a giving strategy to fund climate advocacy and solutions.

I decided to become a supporter of the Australian Democracy Network (ADN) because they directly tackle one of the biggest blockers to the scientifically backed policies we need to ensure a healthy and stable climate – the fossil fuel industry and the corrupt influence they have over our political system and elected representatives.

ADN is Australia's leading campaigner for a more just, transparent and fairer democracy for Australia, accountable to the people rather than corporations. ADN is critical to ensuring that our MPs act in the best interests for all, including First Nations peoples and future generations, rather than in the interests of the profit-margin of the coal, oil and gas companies, which are mostly foreign-owned and pay proportionally very little tax or royalties.

ADN's work includes the groundbreaking report on State Capture, the far reaching OurDemocracy campaign and Craig Reucassel's *Big Deal* documentary. Together, these actions made a massive contribution to the 2022 'climate election', resulting in more candidates being elected with climate, the environment and eliminating corruption as key policy priorities.

Without the Australian Democracy Network, the fossil fuel lobby would have more power and control over policy decisions, further expanding coal, oil and gas projects, delaying the clean energy transition, and resulting in more frequent and devastating bushfires, heatwaves, floods, animal extinctions and sea-level rise. I'm a proud supporter of ADN because I want a stronger democracy that ensures a safe and liveable planet for current and future generations.

**Stephen Pfeiffer**



[australiandemocracy.org.au/donate](https://australiandemocracy.org.au/donate)





**Australian Democracy Network is powered  
by progressive philanthropy.**

**None of our vital work would be possible  
without the partnership of our generous donors.**

**Thank you for your commitment to strengthening democracy.**

[australiandemocracy.org.au](https://australiandemocracy.org.au)

PO Box 270, Carlton South, VIC 3053