

## A Voice for the ACT

### What are people concerned about?

Any law made in the ACT can be overridden by the federal Parliament, simply because it is a territory and not a state. This means that while all states in Australia are discussing or have passed laws about voluntary assisted dying, the ACT cannot. This limitation on our rights could in future affect other issues as well.

In the Senate the ACT is represented by only 2 Senators - compared to 12 for each state. This under-representation is made worse by the fact that the ACT's 2 Senators are from the government and opposition, and therefore commonly cancel out each other's votes, leaving the ACT without an effective voice in the Senate.

Ironically, Canberra does not have enough of a voice in federal Parliament.

### What do people think the solutions should be?

Properly represent ACT views. Many Canberrans do not feel like their views are heard. This was echoed by Australia Talks which found that 8 out of 10 people in the ACT think most politicians are out of touch with the people they are supposed to represent<sup>1</sup>. Politicians are elected to represent and act on the views of the community – all must act on this.

Increase the independent voices in Parliament. Opt for parliamentarians who make decisions based on the views of those they represent and the best interest of the community rather than party politics. This will inevitably lead to better results for the ACT.

Restore Territory rights – so that the ACT can make laws in the same way that states can.

### Therefore, what is proACT calling for?

proACT believes in doing democracy better – community voices must be heard and acted on.

proACT believes that one of the best ways to get stronger action for the Territory is to vote for community-based independents rather than those beholden to political parties – including a centre-progressive Independent Senator for the ACT

proACT calls on our political representatives to restore Territory rights.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-10/australia-talks-data-explorer-2019/12946988#/responses/most-politicians-in-australia-are-out-of-touch-with-the-people-they-are-supposed-to-represent>