

Government must be held accountable by the Parliament

In a well-functioning democracy, members of parliament act in the interests of their constituents and the nation. In reality, the major parties determine how their MPs and Senators vote and this 'solidarity' is not always in the nation's interests.

For example, most voters support action on climate and an end to new coal and gas but fossil fuel interests hold sway. Promised restraints on gambling advertising were reversed thanks to lobbying.

Those with vested interests generally act in secret, lobbying, threatening and making donations as a form of bribery for their endeavours.

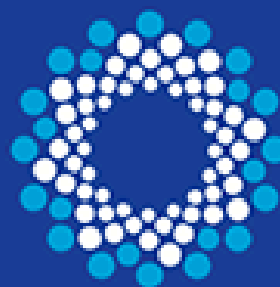
The Senate is the house of review where negotiations take place, inquiries are held on the big issues and bills are amended, however these decisions often bypass Parliament.

We need to see how decisions are made and who was involved.

Improving accountability

The Accountability Round Table is non-partisan. It develops policies to improve accountability in areas such as access to information, campaign financing, and holding government to account when it fails to act on corruption.

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ACCOUNTABILITY ROUND TABLE

Strengthening
Government
Integrity }

Dedicated to improving standards
of accountability, transparency,
ethical behaviour and democratic
practice in Commonwealth
and State parliaments and
governments across Australia.

A crisis of accountability

Did you know some electorates get more government funded services and facilities than others?

Do you wonder why urgent issues never get properly addressed despite ordinary people calling for change, for decades?

Do you think lobby groups with power and money always get what they want?

Do government insider deals deliver good policy?

We say democracy should serve everyone in Australia, not just those with access to decision-makers.

The benefits of being an MP are not meant to deliver political power to the MP or their party. Nor should sector lobbying interests be dictating policy.

The Parliament and its elected members of parliament must act in the public interest.

Voting for the Senate

We suggest 'voting below the line'. This means you choose the order in which you want your vote to go.

Make yourself a 'how to vote' card beforehand.

Buyer beware!

Before you vote, check the candidates' policies and record. Find out:

1. What is their stance on pork-barrelling – the uneven distribution of grants to electorates they hope to win over?
2. Are they beholden to big money businesses, gambling, tobacco, alcohol, mining, fossil fuels, property developers etc.?
3. Are they representing agendas of other countries or are they spreading misinformation?
4. Ask what they personally stand for?
5. What is their voting record in Parliament?
6. Do they raise issues you want to see addressed?

For more help:

"They vote for you" lets you see how your MP voted in Parliament.

<https://theyvoteforyou.org.au/>

"Cluey Voter" makes it easy to vote below the line and make your vote count.

<https://www.clueyvoter.com/>