

Parliamentary integrity

What are people concerned about?

Power and self-interest are being put above the public interest. Parliament is not operating as effectively, as fairly or as ethically as it can and should; and trust is being undermined. Examples include:

- Corruption – pork-barrelling and the like, which is made worse because those responsible are not held accountable
- Parliamentarians putting their party before the people they represent and before public interest – spin and political games rather than genuine representation
- Misogyny and a toxic and combative culture – behaviour that is out of step with what Australians expect, and means many women and minorities are less likely to get involved
- The big parties changing laws to entrench their grip on power

The ACT has the lowest trust in politicians in the country – 73% believe that they can't be trusted to act in the interests of those they represent, compared to a national average of 65%¹.

What do people think the solutions should be?

Use our votes - elect people with integrity who will act with respect, honesty and integrity while in Parliament and are willing to be held accountable to these values by their community

Set up structures and systems to make it happen – notably a robust and independent federal integrity commission; and responding quickly to the recommendations that will come out of the independent review into Parliamentary workplaces.

More independent voices – ensuring more people in both Houses of Parliament who are not beholden to a political party and will put the interests of their community and the wider public above party interests.

Therefore, what is proACT calling for?

proACT believes in doing democracy better – cleaning up politics, building a culture of respect and integrity, and holding our parliamentarians to account

proACT calls for more genuine representation – responding to the majority of Canberrans who want a federal integrity commission by making it happen

proACT believes that one of the best ways to change our politics for the better is to vote for community-based independents who are not beholden to a political party – including a centre-progressive Independent Senator for the ACT.

¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-10/australia-talks-data-explorer-2019/12946988#/responses/politicians-in-australia-can-generally-be-trusted-to-act-in-the-interests-of-the-people-they-represent>