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## RE: Expression of Interest: Open Government Forum Membership

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an innovative democratic expression of a government's commitment to its citizens, its institutions, and itself.

OGP is an ambitious platform for building trust, better public services, and fighting corruption. It has the unique potential to enact reforms through ambitious and innovative approaches to major public policy challenges. As a platform for civil society, it empowers and enables citizen agency.

Collectively, OGP provides a pragmatic procedure to some of Australian society's most pressing social and democratic concerns. For these reasons, the opportunity to provide a strong and representative voice for civil society on the Australian OGP Forum is both cogent and compelling.

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For civil society to realise the potential of its partnership with government in this work, it requires individuals that can complement and fulfil its existing and future commitments and aspirations. In line with this criteria, I put forward my selection credentials:

- **International OGP Civil Society Representative:** I am currently serving as an additional member (sans voting rights) on the global OGP Steering Committee for Civil Society. This newly established role provides a unique opportunity to support and engage deeply on strategic OGP governance issues and opportunities facing the global OGP movement.
- **National OGP Expertise:** I was formerly an Expert Advisor on the New Zealand Civil Society Expert Advisory Panel and have held representative roles speaking on OGP at The Hague, Netherlands, Tbilisi, Georgia and forthcoming, in Seoul, Korea.
- **Broad civil society engagement and representation:** As the current Chief Executive of Volunteering Victoria, and former Chief Executive of Volunteering New Zealand, my work regularly transcends individual sectors, and spans the breadth and depth of organised civic participation that sustains civil society.
- **Specialist expertise in deliberative democracy:** As a consultant to the Kettering Foundation, a US-based democracy think-tank, I work with other civil society representatives to support emerging citizen leaders to organise, and give voice to the issues that concern themselves.
- **Collaborative and consultative:** Forums are most effective when they harness the energy and expertise for collective impact. If selected, I aim to support the group by engendering trust and confidence through my open and discursive ability to both lead and follow.

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By applying for a position on this esteemed group of civil society leaders, and alongside our Government colleagues, I would endeavour to listen, lead and leverage both national and international networks for an even stronger and more relevant 2018-2020 National Action Plan.

Scott Miller