

## **Open Government Forum Nomination: Nomination Submission by Anthony Nagy**

**Open Government Partnership (OGP) Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)** [ogp@pmc.gov.au](mailto:ogp@pmc.gov.au)

I welcome this opportunity to contribute to the work of the OGF, and am eager to advocate policy work that reinforces public trust in our democratic system. Public trust on many metrics is at all-time lows across major social institutions, and there can be no more important work than rebuilding trust within civil society. That said, Australia enjoys a vibrant and healthy democracy: it faces challenges but they can be readily addressed with commitment, imagination and innovation.

### **Selection Criteria:**

**Demonstrated support of OGP vision and the Open Government Declaration.** OGP commitments to its vision and key themes fundamentally relies upon civic trust and engagement across all of civil society.

Sustainable and effective participatory democracy must be underpinned by the most comprehensive and inclusive narrative that touches each citizen in a way that reinforces democracy as a key component in their everyday life. Not only do we need reforms to democratic “structures” that can reinforce accountability, transparency, and trust, citizens must feel engaged and confident they have the chance to be heard and free to contribute to our democracy.

**Expertise relevant to the OGP, including existing or probable future OGP-Au commitments.** For nearly 40 years I have worked as a community advocate in legal aid, a senior journalist and then government adviser. I have extensive corporate expertise in finance markets as well as in public policy. For the last decade I have operated a lobbying consultancy. These skills give me practical insights into both the processes of government and the challenges they face in developing quality policy in the light of competing pressures. I also note the recent speech by Ross Garnaut highlighting the way media and lobbying have undermined democratic trust. I have intimate knowledge of both sectors and consider this suite of experience can significantly add to the current and future work of the OGP.

**Ability to engage broad and diverse community networks.** I continue to enjoy a wide array of personal and professional contacts across many sectors and ages. I am confident in my ability to be an advocate for the continuing work of the OGP and help create the inclusive narrative regarding democracy and necessary reforms that I have discussed.

**Previous experience working with and influencing government.** As mentioned, in roles for senior government advisor to private sector lobbying, I have worked in policy development and seeking to influence policy reform as well as outcomes. I have intimate knowledge of the lobbying space which I consider needs particular reform.

**Ability to address the desirability of maintaining continuity between successive Forums, balanced with the desirability of reaching new communities and reflecting emerging open-government priorities.** With academic training in law and political philosophy, and practical expertise I have interior knowledge of the work of the OGP and its future challenges. But equally I am armed with reform ideas, and also am optimistic that new opportunities, whether technological eg, “blockchain”, social eg, civic and ethics education at secondary level, or structural, eg, lobbying, donations reform, integrity commission, we have the ability to reinforce and assist democracy thrive.

