

Expression of Interest – Civil Society; Open Government Forum

Motivation for joining:

It is critical for the future of accountability and transparency in the public service in Australia that a diversity of Australians, including young Australians, are consulted with, and directly involved in its facilitation. As a young person (24) having experienced working with and for government, with varied experience working towards political and government accountability, policy reform, access to information, and on a trajectory to work in the integrity arm of government, I would be well suited to ensure the forum accesses a greater diversity of thought and an adaptability to the shifting demands of technology and the public interest.

Key selection criteria

Demonstrated support for OGP's Mission and Strategy and the Open Government Declaration:

At Melbourne Law School (JD), I am studying public, constitutional and administrative law. I have written papers on the legal and policy framework for campaign finance laws as well as public service procurement as a vehicle for social change. I have years of professional experience in engaging civil society on a range of government policy areas.

Expertise relevant to Open Government Partnership, including existing or probable future Australian Open Government commitments:

My current/future work as a Youth Commissioner for the National Youth Commission (inquiry into youth unemployment and transitions) requires me to act as a conduit between grassroots sentiment and government policy. My previous work as the Director of Political Engagement at Oaktree, Australia's largest youth-run aid and development organisation, involved the facilitation of hundreds of civic-government interactions. I am also the Co-founder of a media start up, Polity, which examines access to information and the means of information consumption in an attempt to counter media bias.

Demonstrated ability to engage broad and diverse community networks:

Through my work at Oaktree, as well as with the AYCC and Polity, I facilitated and mentored a diverse range of young people around the country in a number of areas, from lobbying, to movement building, to policy research and analysis. Having lived and worked in Italy, the US, Nepal, Senegal, Israel, Colombia and Australia, I am comfortable operating with a wide range of cultures, age groups, identities and ideologies. My work at Oaktree required the establishment of a broad civil society and political network in Australia and the facilitation of extensive community and sector engagement with national policy makers.

Previous experience working with and influencing government:

Experience in political and public service lobbying for policy change in regard to youth empowerment, particularly in aid and development (Oaktree). This included writing submissions for the Foreign Affairs White Paper in 2017 on behalf of Oaktree, as well as facilitating the submissions of hundreds of young Australians around the country. I also currently work as a Law Clerk in the Legal Division of the Victorian Department of Education.

The desirability of maintaining some continuity between Forums, balanced with the desirability of reaching new communities and reflecting emerging open government priorities:

I have not been previously involved in the Forum. I am working towards a career in execution of the principles that Open Government pursues. To secure its objectives of accountability and transparency, it is imperative that the Forum adopts an iterative approach in its consultation process, and is constantly reaching for new communities. Young people play an important role in institutional evolution and their value-add warrants active inclusion of their demographic in the consultation and decision-making process.