

**Expression of Interest—Civil Society Member—Open Government Forum**  
**Dr Lyn Carson**

I have not been involved with the Open Government Forum to date and would bring fresh ideas and perspectives, including regional perspectives, to the Forum. In particular I have decades of experience with the practice of citizen engagement.

***Demonstrated support of OGP's Mission and Strategy and the Open Government Declaration;***

As a founding board member of The newDemocracy Foundation (nDF) and its current Research Director, my current daily activities and past 25 years of professional life in universities have been perfectly aligned with the OGP's Mission and Strategy and the Open Government Declaration, especially, to innovate in how we do democracy.

***Expertise relevant to the Open Government Partnership, including existing or probable future Australian Open Government commitments;***

I have researched, taught, consulted and facilitated public deliberations in Australia, almost all in partnership with government. I have served a term in local government as an elected representative (Lismore City Council 1991-1995) and also worked in government briefly. Currently I have oversight of the design and convening of several local and state government projects that are experimenting with different ways to involve citizens in government decision-making.

***Demonstrated ability to engage broad and diverse community networks;***

I routinely work in partnership in government to open spaces for civil society. My activities are practical—involving randomly-selected citizens, as well as active interest groups and subject experts, along with elected representatives and those who implement policy. This happens with face-to-face deliberations as well as complementary online input. Consequently, I am connected with diverse communities throughout urban and regional Australia. These activities are primarily focused on currently-unengaged citizens.

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

I have recently also been involved in designing a symposium in several capital cities to bring together thought leaders from across the country to deliberate on strengthening democracy. Out of this symposium have come several funded projects, including one concerned with evidence-based policy making.

***Residents from non-metropolitan regions throughout Australia are particularly encouraged to apply.***

I live in northern NSW and work remotely with colleagues in Sydney as well as people throughout the world. My network development colleague is based in San Francisco and together we have created an international network of researchers and practitioners—Democracy R&D—with 21 organisations from 14 countries: <https://democracyrd.org/>

***Previous experience working on Open Government matters as well as working collaboratively with advisory bodies to help influence and shape government decision making would be highly valued.***

As a regional local government elected representative I worked with a number of state and federal government advisory bodies. I have also worked with non-government advisory bodies. All of my current engagement activity is predicated on an early commitment by governments to implement citizens' considered recommendations. In terms of future activity, I would point to the work I have been doing on critical thinking and unconscious biases, to interrupt the current drift toward 'alternative facts' and 'fake news'. Citizens' juries using these exercises are 'doing democracy' differently and I have been heartened by our successes in this area. I also have considerable experience with the challenges inherent in the online environment when used for civic engagement, especially attempts to deliberate online or create platforms that enable deliberation.