



To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my interest and suitability for a civil society position on the Australian Open Government Forum.

I am strongly supportive of the Open Government Partnership, the Declaration of Open Government and its principals and believe that greater transparency and openness is an essential part of a healthy, functional democracy. The three principals outlined in the declaration are all necessary tools with which to strengthen both civil engagement within our society, which may be lapsing given the level of dissatisfaction in voters, and accountability of both government and politicians.

My motivations for joining the Open Government Forum include a belief that Open Government principals need to be adopted for democracies to adapt to the changing landscape that information technology has brought. Information systems, social networking and accessibility to the internet have allowed people to communicate and organise at a level unprecedented in human history and fully facilitate the government to engage with civil society and act in the expressed interests of the community.

As a young, first-generation Australian in a STEM occupation, specifically a graduate Mechatronic Engineer working within the Department of Defence, I understand the desires of the youth community with regards to transparency and accountability in their government and wish to contribute both my technical understanding of open technology to the Open Government Forum but also contribute the views of a typical young person highly engaged in social media and ready to drive cultural change within the existing system. As a first-generation Australian from a Croatian cultural background I am able to engage diverse community networks within the European community and diaspora and sympathise with young Australians from a similar background and cultural context.

As a young, technical professional I already have experience influencing government in my past technical roles as a consultant in Information Technologies working within the Department of Education & Communities and Transport for New South Wales. More substantially since joining the Department of Defence, I have helped drive cultural change through the Pathways to Change initiative, having just recently contributed in a round table discussion with the Acting Secretary of Defence, Mr Brendan Sargeant, on participation of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) peoples within the Department. As a graduate Australian Public Servant, I am fully appreciative of the benefits of the Open Government Partnership and driving change through my own actions.

I also have a desire to maintain engagement with successive Open Government Forums and would gladly offer any support to incoming youth members of the Forum were I to be accepted and run a period of membership. Naturally I would engage with any community that sought to contribute to the forum, as well as the government of the day, and will work to address emerging open government priorities as they arise.

In closing, I again wish to emphasise my suitability as a representative for the Open Government Forum, as a representative on behalf of the Australian youth community, STEM technical community and culturally and linguistically diverse greater community.

King Regards
Luke Nikola Radic