

Media Release – Voices of Wannon – 12/11/2021

The Voices of Wannon community group has published its Kitchen Table Conversations report, *What Wannon Wants* documenting Wannon electorate members' diverse views, concerns and ideas.

Drawing on the ideas and practices of the Voices for Indi group, which was formed in 2012 and has successfully supported the election of Independents Cathy McGowan and Helen Haines to the federal Parliament, Voices of Wannon started work in early 2021.

Since then, more than 170 residents from twenty towns across the electorate, including Portland, Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Hamilton, Terang, Peterborough, Camperdown, and new Wannon communities such as Lorne, Airey's Inlet & Deans Marsh, have participated in Kitchen Table and online conversations.

During these exchanges, Wannon residents discussed and described what it is they love about the Wannon region; their expectations of local member, the Hon Dan Tehan MP and the priority issues they believe require his urgent attention.

The key concerns raised by participants call for:

1. Real and urgent action on climate change
2. Improved integrity and transparency in government
3. Compassionate treatment of refugees and people seeking asylum
4. Increased availability of affordable and social housing
5. Improved access to health services (including mental health)

Strikingly, more than 75% of Wannon electorate participants felt they were poorly or very poorly represented by their current local member. People want a representative who is physically present and accessible to the community and to have their concerns listened to and respected. There was strong support for real time political donation disclosure, and for government decisions to be based on informed and impartial advice.

Voices of Wannon committee members will meet with Minister Tehan to present and discuss the Report on Friday 19th November 2021.

All Wannon voters and their families are welcome to attend the **What Wannon Wants** Report launch celebration and BBQ at the Camperdown Botanic Gardens, 220 Park Rd, Camperdown from 5.30pm on Saturday 13th November.

The Report will be available from Friday November 12 at <https://www.voicesofwannon.net/>

Photo: L-R Voices of Wannon members with What Wannon Wants in the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens; Jim Gifford , Genevieve Grant , Joy Coulson , Shelly Murrell Warrnambool and Greg Twitt .

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