

# VOICES OF WENTWORTH



Be Heard. Be Represented. Be Included.

## Wentworth Cares Community Engagement Report 2022



# Be heard. Be represented. Be included.



**Bellevue Hill**  
**Bondi Junction**  
**Centennial Park**  
**Darling Point**  
**Edgecliff**  
**Moore Park**  
**Potts Point**  
**Rose Bay**  
**Vaucluse**  
**Woollahra**

**Bondi**  
**North Bondi**  
**Clovelly**  
**Double Bay**  
**Elizabeth Bay**  
**Paddington**  
**Queens Park**  
**Rushcutters Bay**  
**Watsons Bay**  
**Woolloomooloo**

**Bondi Beach**  
**Bronte**  
**Darlinghurst**  
**Dover Heights**  
**Kings Cross**  
**Point Piper**  
**Randwick**  
**Tamarama**  
**Waverley**

Voices of Wentworth meet and work on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in, working in, or visiting Wentworth.



# Contents.

WHO WE ARE	2
Committee	2
Our Electorate – Wentworth	3
WHAT WE DO	4
Our values	4
LISTENING	6
How we engaged with the community	6
Key findings	8
Key themes from community engagement	10
Quick poll results	18
Demographics	19
INFORMING VOTERS	20
ADVOCACY	21
WHAT'S NEXT	22
THANK YOU	22
APPENDIX	24

This report sets out the findings of our engagement with voters in the Wentworth electorate since mid-2020. The words in speech bubbles throughout the Report are direct quotes from participants.

**I want an MP who “has a vision for a better Australia with humane values and looks towards policies of equality. Forward thinking on climate change and Australia’s place on the world stage. Willing to cross the party floor. Holds integrity higher than political alliances. Works to encourage more diversity in government and fairer representation of women.”**

**“Our rep should be wise, very engaged with the community - not just the powerful - and learn to walk in someone else’s shoes. Our rep needs to have a world-view informed by evidence/experts as well as human decency and compassion, and a future-looking view of what we could be that would benefit all.”**

# Who we are.

Voices of Wentworth (VoW) is a non-partisan community group established to engage the local community, to better understand what voters care about, to provide fact-based information and to advocate for the issues that local people support. We promote democracy, accountability and transparency in the political process.

Voices of Wentworth was established in 2020 by a small group of local volunteers concerned about climate change, integrity in politics, gender equity, lack of media diversity and other issues. The founding members of the VoW Committee were concerned about the health of Australia's democracy. We were frustrated that changes that were clearly supported by the vast majority in the electorate, such as establishing an effective federal integrity commission, were not being supported in parliament by our federal MP. People's voices were not being heard. It turned out there were a lot of other local people who felt the same way. To address this, we undertook to listen to our community members and amplify their voices.

Voices of Wentworth's 'kitchen table conversation' model is based on the Voices 4 Indi example. We are grateful to the Indi team for sharing their work. VoW was also inspired by Voices of Warringah – one of the "Voices" groups that chose to remain non-partisan and is not endorsing any political candidate. VoW has also adopted a non-partisan approach, in order to engage with as many constituents as possible, from all parts of the political spectrum.

Voices of Wentworth is funded entirely by donations from our volunteers and participants. It is not affiliated with any political, religious or commercial organisation.

**“The representative should behave in the interests of citizens, not those of lobbyists and corporations.”**

## Our committee



Delia Burrage



Jenny Lovric



Sophie Pollitt



Alexia Spalding



# Demographics of the Wentworth electorate\*



Median age

**37**

Gender

**52.1%**

Female

**47.9%**

Male

Education

**46%**

have a Bachelor degree or above

## Marital status

**45.9%**  
never married

**52.1%**  
married

**52.1%**  
sep/div/wid

**Families**  
**45.1%**  
couple without children

**41.7%**  
couple with children

## Country of birth

**54.4%**  
Australia

**6.7%**  
England

**3.6%**  
South Africa

**2.8%**  
New Zealand

**1.5%**  
USA

**1.2%**  
Ireland

## Religion

**33%**  
No religion

**20%**  
Catholic

**13.6%**  
Not stated

**12.5%**  
Judaism

**10.6%**  
Anglican

## Employment

**66.6%**  
Full time  
(60% professionals/  
managers)

**25.8%**  
Part time

**3.7%**  
Unemployed

## Dwellings

**60.9%**  
Flats/apartments

**20.3%**  
Semis, terraces

**17.2%**  
Separate houses

## Transport

**35.9%**  
Drive to work

# What we do.

Voices of Wentworth is a non-partisan community-based organisation that is not aligned with any political party and is staffed by volunteers. We are all about grass-roots representative democracy.

Voices of Wentworth is active in three areas: **listening** to what people care about, **informing** local people about topics of national importance, and **advocating** for change on policies locals want that are not being supported in parliament by their MP.

**“I am worried about what’s going on federally...why are they pushing back on a Federal ICAC? Movements like this (Voices) are making an impact.”**

## Our values



*Integrity*



*Democracy*



*Equality*



*Respect*



*Accountability*



*Transparency*

**What we expect from Australia’s political process.**







# Listening.

Listening to the people of Wentworth is what we are all about.

To hear first-hand what members of the Wentworth community care about, we held various face-to-face events across the electorate. We also conducted an online Wentworth Cares Community Survey as well as Quick Polls across our social media channels.

## How we engaged with the community



### Kitchen Table Conversations (“KTCs”)

Voices of Wentworth has engaged directly with over 100 local people via “kitchen table conversations”.

A “Kitchen Table Conversation” is a group of around 8 to 10 people sitting around a table talking about issues that are important to them, with a Voices of Wentworth representative guiding the conversation and a person taking notes. Initially, we held 2 live events at people’s homes, then we decided to make the conversations more festive by holding an evening event on 16 June 2021 involving six tables at once, which we called “Voices in the Pub”. When lockdown restrictions were in place, we organised a series of online conversations dubbed “Voices from the Couch”. Between August 2021 and December 2021, we held 5 well-attended Voices from the Couch virtual KTCs. In this report, we refer to all these kinds of live discussions as “KTCs”.

Whether the event is held in person or virtually via zoom, they are run in the same way, using the same set of open questions to spark discussion. KTCs are a wonderful opportunity to really understand the drivers behind people’s concerns and policy choices. Participants expressed how much they enjoyed meeting other people from the area and learning from their insights and experience.

The themes distilled from our KTCs are summarized later in the report.

### Democracy Walks

A group of Voices of Wentworth volunteers met up at Bondi Beach on 30 weekends to walk and chat with locals about the issues they care about. On one memorable occasion we had a special guest walker, comedian Dan Ilic, who talked about his climate billboard campaign.

### “By 2030 I’d like to see” Campaign

At our live events, we asked locals what they would like to see by 2030. During the year, we posted their views on our social media. You can find some of the pictures throughout this report.





### Wentworth Cares Community Survey

We put together a long-form survey with questions that matched the questions we were asking in our KTCs. For example, we asked:

- **Are there any local issues in the Wentworth electorate that concern you?**
- **Are there any State or Federal issues within and beyond our electorate that concern you?**
- **What qualities do you expect to see in your federal representative?**
- **Do you feel that your voice is adequately represented by your Federal Representative?**
- **What would make for a stronger relationship between people and their elected representatives?**

A QR code to the survey was included in a flyer that we used to promote the Big Deal documentary. Our volunteers delivered 10,000 flyers in one weekend, all over the electorate. It was a great way to reach people who may not otherwise know about the survey.

Later, we prepared a shorter version of the survey that only took a minute to answer. We included the key questions about issues and representation.

All up, 587 people completed the surveys. A summary of the results appears in the Key Survey Finding section, with detailed results in the Appendix.

### #WentworthAsks Quick Polls

On social media, we offered 4 surveys with “Yes/No” answers to policy questions. Each was open for only around 24 hours. They were distributed via Facebook ‘Local Loop’ groups that are used by tens of thousands of people all over the electorate.

All up, we had over 1000 responses to our Quick Polls on issues including Political Advertising, Net Zero Emissions, the date of Australia Day and the Religious Discrimination Bill. See further down in this document for results.

**“Enormous inequality underpins most issues.”**

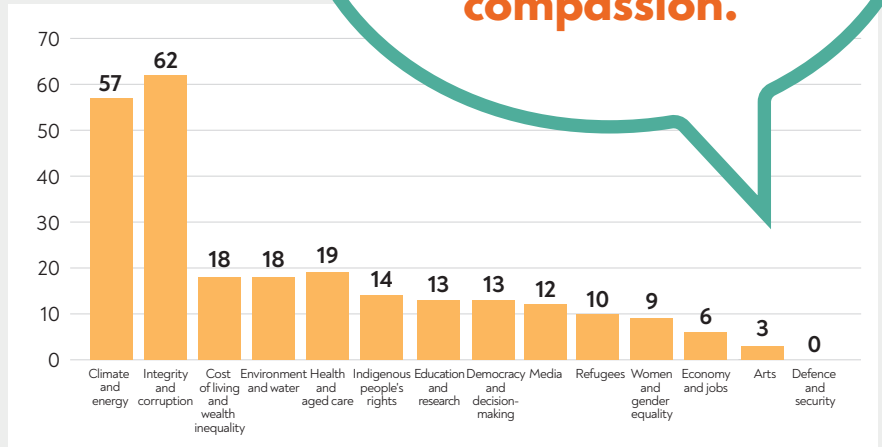
# Key findings.

“Our rep needs to have a world-view informed by evidence/experts as well as human decency and compassion.”

## Most frequently raised issues in KTCs

There were ~100 participants in our KTCs, many of whom raised multiple issues. In the chart, the total for each issue shows the number of times that issue was raised by participants at our live KTC events.

Many people said that “climate was a given” and focused the discussion on integrity issues and how to fix them.

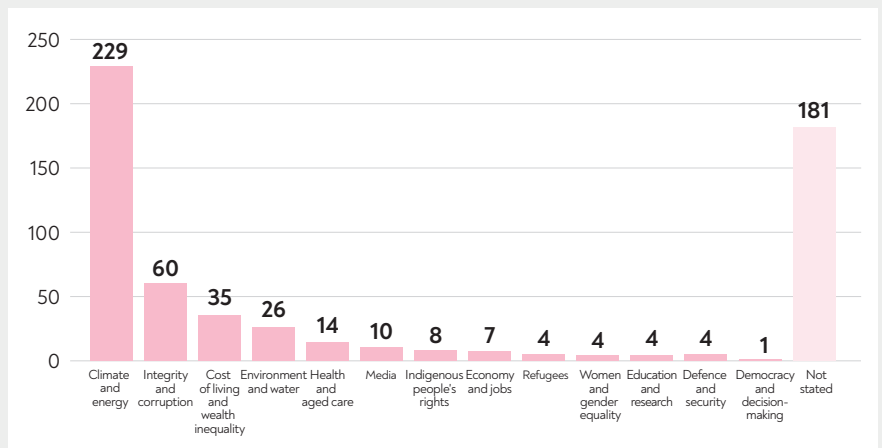


## Number one concern in surveys was climate

587 people completed either our long form or short form survey. We asked participants to choose up to 8 State or Federal issues from a pre-populated list. The results of that question are in the Appendix to this report.

We then asked participants to nominate their number one concern from that list. Some (181) responded with comments such as “they are all connected so it’s hard to choose” or left the field blank.

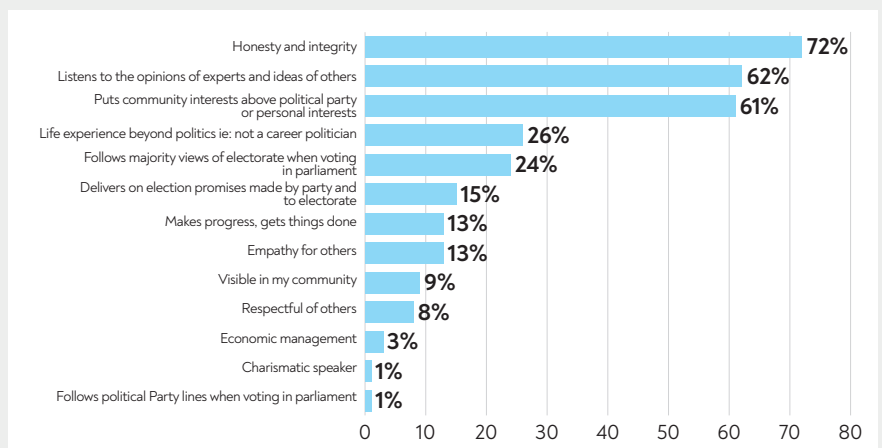
Of those who nominated a ‘number one’ issue, “climate change” was the dominant result.



## People want an MP who is honest, who listens to the opinions of experts and who puts the community first

In the long form survey, we asked “Thinking about political representation, what qualities do you expect to see in your federal representative? Please choose up to 3 from the list”.

The highest-ranking qualities expected were honesty and integrity.



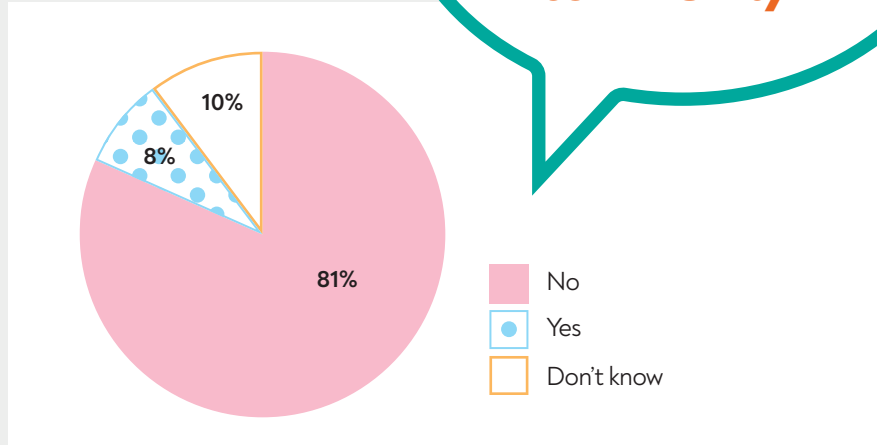


**“Any representative that just votes on party lines is not listening to their community”**

## Wentworth voters do not feel represented

In both our surveys, we asked whether people felt that their voice was adequately represented in parliament by their federal MP.

**81% of respondents said “No”.**

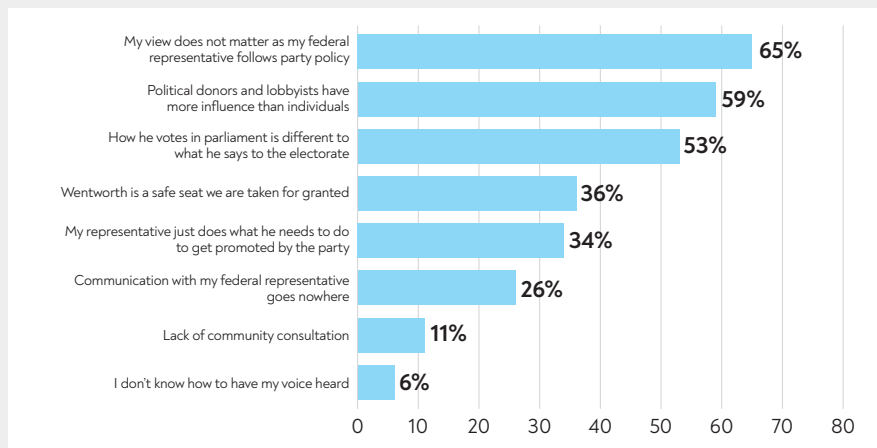


## Voting on party lines is the main reason voters don't feel represented

In the long form survey, we asked those selected 'no' above to nominate the top 3 reasons why they didn't feel represented.

**People felt their views didn't matter because their MP votes according to party policy; that donors have more influence and that what he says is different to how he votes.**

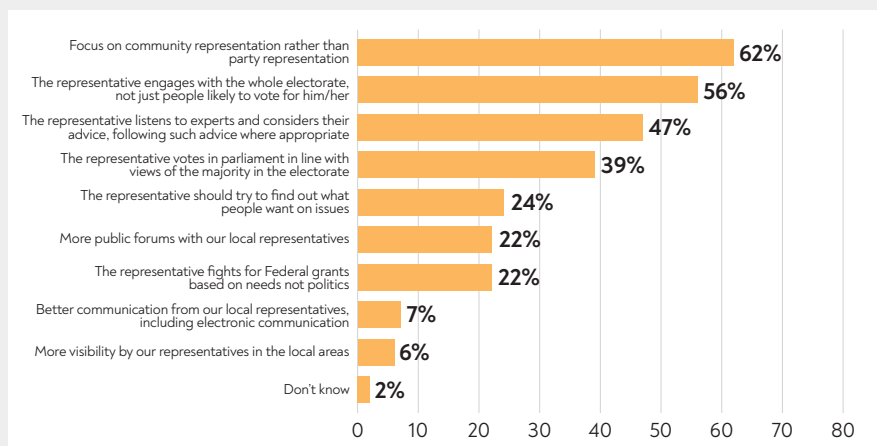
See the Appendix for responses from people who answered that they did feel represented.



## Similarly, voters felt that focusing on community representation rather than party representation would make a stronger relationship between people and their MP

In the long form survey, we asked what would make for a stronger relationship between people and their elected representatives, with respondents able to select up to 3 options from a list.

**The most frequently selected options were that the MP should focus on the community not the party; that she/he needs to engage with the whole electorate, not just those likely to vote for her/him; and that she/he should follow the advice of experts.**



# Key themes from community engagement.

We considered over 100 pages of quotes gathered from KTCs and the free form fields in our survey.

A sizeable proportion of survey respondents said it was hard to choose a single top issue, with many respondents expressing that the top issues of concern were inter-connected and causative of a cascade of issues of concerns. Some saw climate action as the key issue that impacted on all others, others saw action on integrity as the key trigger for change, others saw growing wealth inequality as the basis for many of the other issues of concern.



In the survey, over a third of responders rated climate change as their number one issue. Climate change was often seen as an existential risk impacting every other issue of concern and requiring urgent action. There were strong calls for rapid emissions reduction and a swift move to renewables. Concern was also expressed that careful transition planning is needed to ensure equity and future work.

“I am concerned about transition: you need to plan this transition from a resources-based economy. How we manage jobs in this process? There needs to be a strategic process to do this.”

“Please get action on climate change, I plead with you for my grandchildren’s future.”

“Climate change as an existential threat that politicians are not taking nearly seriously enough.”

“No one is talking about the cost of not doing anything.”

“Climate change is probably the biggest long-term issue, including all the subsidiary concerns, like excessive political lobbying from the fossil fuel industry, government promotion of coal and gas, lack of action on renewable energy and electric vehicles.”

“I find it shameful that Australia, one of the countries best placed to lead by example, instead does exactly the opposite.”

“Climate Change and the government’s refusal to commit to targets, to phase out coal and their weaponising an issue that has cost us a decade of positive action and is an issue bigger than political careers.”

“Climate change - this is a global issue with a long-time horizon and needs leadership. I believe this needs to happen at all levels but led at a federal level.”

“Government is sleeping at the wheel with regards to climate change”



## INTEGRITY + CORRUPTION



Participants very strongly supported the need for an effective federal integrity commission. In addition, many called out the need for donation reform, with donations from fossil fuel companies identified as a key cause of climate inaction. Other concerns related to truth in political advertising, grants to marginal seats, rorts, lack of transparency and accountability in government decision-making – decisions being made for self-interest rather than in the interests of voters.

“I am very disillusioned by the level of corruption and lack of will to do anything other than stay in power demonstrated by both major parties.”

“Parliamentary code of conduct drafted independently.”

“If we followed integrity path, that would lead to climate action.”

“The failure of governments to act accountably, responsibly, and transparently leaves minorities and the vulnerable exposed and promotes mismanagement of covid proportions daily.”

“No explanation given or responsibility taken. eg the removal of Medivac for refugees, the climate deal with the Nationals, the lack of transparency around Christian Porter’s defamation funding.”

“Climate change and global warming stand equally to federal integrity commission as my biggest concerns. The fact that this government feels entitled to govern, not being accountable to any of their wrongdoings, and massive corruptions within different levels of this coalition government are very concerning.”

Our respondents felt that inequality was a significant problem that posed a structural barrier to social participation. Inadequate social security was noted. Many viewed growing inequality as foundational to other areas of concern. Concerns were expressed about the lack of availability of affordable housing, with some noting that climate change will exacerbate existing inequality issues.



“Enormous inequality underpins most issues.”

“Housing affordability is a big thing on a national level – this affects the whole economy. This then goes to the next generation.”

“Inequality is a huge problem with too many people being left behind. Politicians should put the interests of the community they are serving first not just the interests of their donors.”

“Proliferation of investors with perverse tax incentives that create inequality and disadvantage.”

“Growing wealth inequality and its causes including job insecurity and grossly inadequate social security are also of great concern.”

“Look at wages at the bottom end that have not increased and inter-generational inequity that is linked to climate justice. Where’s the accountability to all Australians.”

Participants were concerned by the disregard for environmental protection. Many felt that support for vested and business interests came at the expense of the environment and water protection and linked the issue to a lack of action on climate change. Some noted the lack of leadership from the federal government, which appeared to be more supportive of the fossil fuel industry.



“Lack of action on environmental protection, vested-interest routing of water supplies (encouraged by Nationals) and lack of protection for native forests.”

“There needs to be fearless leadership and strong regulation to shift our culture to put environmental considerations first.”

“We need to protect environmental diversity, our wildlife, bush land and forests as an absolute priority.”

“We need environmental regeneration: create a National Environmental Protection Authority and promote regenerative land, water, and agricultural management. Create strategic environmental reserves to safeguard and restore natural carbon sinks and biodiversity, especially for sensitive ecosystems such as the Great Barrier Reef, all alpine national parks, and rivers and coastlines. Promote for healthier urban environments, improving walkability, open spaces, and tree canopy coverage.”



Our engagement revealed a strong sense of disappointment with the federal government’s management of the covid pandemic. Some participants felt that the federal government was ‘disengaged’ and ‘insincere’ in relation to measures to address mental health and teen suicide. Others felt the response to disasters and issues with aged care had been inadequate.

“Bungled covid management. I am petrified about what is happening and the way things are being mismanaged when it comes to our health.”

“If asked what I think the most important issues for the electorate would be ... I would probably say mismanagement of the COVID epidemic and possibly gender inequality.”

Many survey respondents were concerned and disappointed about the inaction on Indigenous people’s rights, with many noting black deaths in custody as a particular concern.



“I find it unbelievable that the First Australians are not included in our constitution and that the Uluru statement was dismissed.”

“No closing of the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy. Continuing black deaths in custody.”



The two main concerns expressed by participants related to the restoration of funding to the ABC and the need for greater media diversity. Some were concerned with media bias.

“I also worry/am angry about defunding and constant undermining of research/ universities and the ABC.”

“The press is often a source of distortion and lies. The ABC has been badly weakened.”

“Need media diversity and legislation against media monopolies to protect democratic freedom and informed consent by the governed.”

“ABC is a total disgrace. It is a refuge for rabid left wingers and is not balanced in any way. It should be de-funded forthwith.”

Participants were dismayed about underfunding and attrition in the education sectors. There were also concerns that research capability and independence were being undermined. Others referred to the need for more focus on and funding support for public school education.



“I am concerned about the chronic under-funding of Australia’s universities and research sector.”

“Much more long-term investment commitment is required to build our research base - including universities, government research agencies (CSIRO, etc) and the pipeline of domestic PhD candidates, particularly in STEM areas.”

“The University sector has been stripped of funding as has the ABC.”

“I am startled by what the politicians do.... for example, huge subsidies for private schools while TAFE, universities and public schools are chopped back... support for religion in schools and via donations to religious groups.”

**“There needs to be fearless leadership and strong regulation to shift our culture to put environmental considerations first.”**





Participants were deeply concerned that the government was not taking advice from qualified public servants or experts, with decision-making appearing to be politically-based or tied to business or party interests. Concerns were expressed about access to decision-makers and lack of transparency in the policy-implementation process.

“Evidence-based decisions over political ideology.”

“Our government needs to be more representative and less partisan. Common good and not greed should govern decision making.”

“I also want my representative to be courageous enough to challenge decisions and opinions that are inconsistent with the values of the electorate.”

“I think there are problems generally with the hollowing out of the public service and the growing use of consultants. We are lacking the expertise to develop good policy.”

“We need governments which take advice from qualified public servants rather than from partisan lobbyists and private ministerial staff.”

“My number one concern is the preservation of civil liberties, individual autonomy and responsibility.”

“Evidence-based decisions over political ideology.”

Participants referred to Australia’s lack of compassion and inhumane and poor human rights practices in relation asylum seekers and refugees. Some of our respondent’s sentiments are reflected below.



“Imprisoning of refugees indefinitely.”

“The inhumane and unacceptable way Australia treats refugees and people seeking asylum.”

“Respect for human rights. Refugees who come to Australia seeking freedom and safety should be helped and not be treated as criminals.”

“My elected representative would be someone who “works towards releasing all refugees.”

## WOMEN + GENDER EQUITY



Survey respondents referred to gender inequality and the poor treatment of women including women in Parliament. Issues were raised in the survey and KTCs about outdated attitudes towards women within the current government.

Concerns were also raised about what the impact on women who seek certain medical treatments would be if the Religious Discrimination Bill is enacted, as well as the impacts of the Bill on LGBT+ teachers, aged care workers and kids.

“The government is not addressing the inequality and the govt response to disasters has been investment in construction (male!) and no focus on women, wages, and aged care.”

“Early childhood education – Paddington Children’s Centre, issues about whether it is sustainable. This matters for all of the families who rely on these services. Big shortfall with COVID (no subsidies). There used to be free childcare which meant women could work. Somehow childcare have become profit making machines.”

“Treatment and mistreatment of women is not being addressed adequately. OUTRAGEOUS that Christian Porter is still in Parliament.”

“[The local MP] handed out flowers at the station on International Women’s Day – across the road from my daughter’s GIRLS school which is educating some female leaders of tomorrow – while doing precisely nothing to help women politically.”

Some survey respondents expressed concern at how economic issues were overly politicised and appeared to be geared towards big business. We received suggestions on how an economy could be better informed by metrics of well-being that also addressed the electorate’s concern about growing wealth inequality.



“Create a wellbeing-focused alternative measure to GDP and report this annually in the federal budget.”

“Negative gearing should be restricted to one investment property.”

“Reduce the standard work week to 35 hours, standardise maternity and paternity leave, and increase jobseeker.”

“Create an Australian Green New Deal to abruptly phase out of fossil fuels, invest in sustainable economies, protect workers in transition, and improve wealth equality.”

**Other topics that were raised as issues of concern, in smaller numbers to the issues above, were the need to support the arts to recover from the economic impact of the COVID19 pandemic, and the need for proper governance in relation to decisions about going to war.**

# Quick poll results.

Voices of Wentworth conducted 4 Quick Polls on policy positions, with a yes/no response requested.

The polls were publicised via:

- VoW public Facebook page and closed VoW Facebook Community group;
  - VoW Twitter feed and Instagram feed; and
  - A variety of Facebook groups for local residents in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs.
- Total exposure to residents via this channel is around 100,000 users.

Do you think the Federal Government should commit to more ambitious emissions reduction targets?

**97%**

**responded that the Federal Government should commit to more ambitious emissions reductions targets by 2030.**

From 140 responses to our poll on **Emissions reductions.**

Should there be a limit on the amount that candidates and political parties can spend on advertising for elections?

**98%**

**responded that there should be a limit on the amount that candidates and political parties can spend on advertising for elections.**

From 248 responses to our poll on **Political advertising.**

Should we keep 26 January for Australia Day or should we move Australia Day to another date?

**94.8%**

**believe we should move Australia Day to another date.**

From 442 responses to our poll on **Australia Day.**

Do you support the Federal Government's Religious Discrimination Bill?

**98.9%**

**responded "I do not support the bill."**

From 362 responses to our poll on the suite of bills related to the **Religious Discrimination Bill.**

# Demographics.

Below are the demographics for respondents to the long form survey and short form survey combined.

## Age

Under 18 and eligible to vote in next election	11	2%
18 to 25	14	2%
26 to 35	35	6%
36 to 45	66	11%
46 to 55	142	25%
56 to 65	164	28%
66 to 74	108	19%
75+	38	7%

## Gender identity

Female	370	64%
Male	203	35%
Non-binary	8	1%

## Postcode

2026 – Bondi, North Bondi, Ben Buckler, Tamarama	96	17%
2024 – Bronte, Waverley	85	15%
2021 – Paddington, Moore Park	74	13%
2022 – Queens Park, Centennial Park, Bondi Junction	61	11%
2031 – Randwick, Clovelly	50	9%
2030 – Vaucluse, Dover Heights, Diamond Bay	43	7%
2027 – Edgecliff, Darling Point, Point Piper	37	6%
2011 – Rushcutters Bay, Elizabeth Bay, Potts Point, Kings Cross	37	6%
2025 – Woollahra	34	6%
2023 – Bellevue Hill	24	4%
2029 – Rose Bay	23	4%
2010 – Darlinghurst, East Sydney	5	1%
Other	8	1%

## Household composition

Single	104	24%
Single parent – children	28	6%
Shared house	22	5%
Couple	191	43%
Couple - no children	70	16%
Other	27	6%



**“I want a Fed MP who works to encourage more diversity in government and fairer representation of women.”**




# Informing voters.

To inform local people, we hold regular “Town Hall” events and interviews to unpack and discuss various issues in an open forum. We invite subject matter experts to speak and engage in Q&A sessions to explore the issues and promote understanding. We also communicated regularly on topics of interest with our supporters via various channels, as set out below. Videos of all of our discussions are available to watch via our website or on our YouTube Channel.



"There's a real growing motivation of people in public, **getting involved in their democracy....** that level of outrage being expressed to politicians, is a crucial part of getting change here."  
Craig Ruecassel



"...we can't allow popularity to win the battle over **accountability, transparency and integrity....**"  
The Hon. Anthony Wheely QC,  
Chair of the Centre for Public Integrity

## Town Hall events

We organised 12 Town Hall events. More than 1,000 people attended in person, online or watched the events via our website.

Topics included:

- Integrity + Transparency in Politics
- Climate Action
- Covid Management
- Media Diversity
- Women's Safety + Equality
- Greenwashing in Politics
- Environmental Protection

We heard from more than 30 subject matter experts including:

The Hon. Anthony Wheely QC (CPI), Prof Mary-Louise McLaws, Prof John Daley (Grattan Institute), Dr Kerryn Phelps, Dr Helen Haines MP, Osher Gunsberg, Nicki Hutley (Climate Council), Dr John Hewson, Sarah Wilson, Marian Wilkinson, Jonathan Holmes, James Mathison, (The Guardian), Emma Cowdroy (AAP) and Dr Benedetta Brevini (UNSW), Rachel Walmsley (EDO), Basha Stasak (ACF) and Gerard Early (BirdLife Australia).

## Fact-finding interviews

We conducted special interviews on hot topics of the day, including:

- ICAC and the resignation of Gladys Berejiklian with The Hon. Anthony Wheely QC
- Covid and Health with Dr Andrew Carr and Dr Kerryn Phelps

## Podcast

We established our VoW Podcast – the home to audio from our Town Halls and interviews.

## Film screening and discussion

We hosted a screening of the 'Big Deal' documentary with a follow up online event on Integrity in Politics with Craig Reucassel, Professor John Daley and The Hon. Anthony Wheely QC. Our fabulous volunteers letterboxed 10,000 households to promote the event.



### Communications with supporters

We published more than 35 newsletters to our mailing list of over 700 supporters.

We shared articles through our social media channels

- Twitter – 2750+ followers
- Facebook – 500+ followers and a Community Group
- Instagram – 500+ followers

### Wentworth Candidate Watch

We have contacted the federal candidates who are running for the electorate of Wentworth and have published a summary of their policies on our website and through our newsletter.

### Dive in with Delia

We published 4 snappy five-minute videos on the issues of the week.

### Community group videos

Wentworth has an abundance of community groups with active and passionate volunteers. We broadcast interviews with some of these local groups including WIRES, Grandmothers for Refugees NSW and Responsible Runners Bondi.





# Advocacy.

Our engagement with the community informs us about what voters want. We also consider publicly available survey data such as YouGov polls.

Where we have identified a gap between what the majority of voters want and government policy, we advocate for policy change.

Our overarching strategy is to ensure that the Federal representative is listening to, understands and represents the interests and concerns of the whole Wentworth community.

## Letter writing

We wrote letters to our MP Dave Sharma on issues including:

- Religious Discrimination Bill
- PEP 11 Exploration
- Zali Steggall's Climate Change Bills (two different letters)
- Support for Afghanistan Refugees
- Covid Management

## Media interviews

We were interviewed by media on many topics, including the "Voices" movement:

- Channel 9 News
- Wentworth Courier and The Fifth Estate
- Crikey
- The Guardian Australia.



## Rallies and meetings

We spoke at local events such as the 'Fund our Future not Gas' rally in Bondi in May 2021

Our volunteers attended Climate Strikes and the March4Justice rally in Canberra.



# What's next?

Over the next few months we will be:

**Having discussions about this report with candidates.**

**Asking candidates to complete a Candidate Questionnaire to indicate whether they support policies that have been raised by members of the Wentworth community during our engagement events.**

**Holding a Candidate forum on Sat 2 April. We have invited all the candidates in the 2022 federal election to speak and answer questions, from the public.**

## Thank you.

Voices of Wentworth would like to thank everyone who has been involved with our group over the past 2 years:

- **Thank you** to Kath Naish for her invaluable contribution as our founder in 2020 and committee member in 2021, and to Eliana Leopold for being a member of our committee during 2020 and 2021.
- **Thank you** to everyone who hosted a KTC in their home, volunteered at one of our events or letterboxed their neighbourhood.
- **Thank you** to those who came along to the KTCs and Democracy Walks, and expressed their views.
- **Thank you** to the panellists and speakers at our Town Halls for volunteering their valuable time.
- **Thank you** to everyone who attended our events and asked thoughtful questions of panelists.
- **Thank you** to each of our federal candidates for putting their hand up to improving politics in Wentworth
- Voices of Wentworth acknowledge The Victorian Women's Trust and Voices for Indi in creating and refining the Kitchen Table Conversation model.
- Finally, Voices of Wentworth would like to thank the Wentworth people for engaging with and embracing our work. We look forward to working with you in the future.

# Appendix.

## Quantitative results from the Long form survey

In the tables below, the number column shows the number of respondents who selected that option and the percentage column shows the percentage of respondents who selected that option. If the percentage exceeds 100, this is because participants could select multiple options.

### Question 1: What do you value most about living in the Wentworth electorate? Please choose up to 4 from the following list

The environment (the beaches, waterways, parks etc.)	392	88%
The relaxed lifestyle and outdoor culture	207	47%
Access to the city	200	45%
My friends and family who live here	170	38%
Shops, restaurants and entertainment venues	162	36%
Public transport	153	34%
The safe environment	153	34%
The sense of community, like-minded people, shared values	122	27%
Social services such as libraries, community services	93	21%
Schools	40	9%
The support networks available to me	25	6%
Social and sporting groups	18	4%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>444</b>	

### Question 3: Thinking about community in a general sense, what makes for a strong community? Please choose up to 4 items from the following list

Well planned villages/centres with easily accessible open spaces	289	65%
Clean and well-maintained public spaces that show people care	254	57%
Effective public transport	182	41%
Support networks (family, friends, like-minded people with shared values)	178	40%
A safe environment	169	38%
Health and Social Services	140	32%
Community action groups	139	31%
Arts and music events	115	26%
Communication and services from the local council	93	21%
Schools and preschools	80	18%
Sporting and social group activities	76	17%
Local media to know what is going on	43	10%
Job opportunities	38	9%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>444</b>	



**“My MP generally represents my values.”**

**“Defunding and constant undermining of research/ universities and the ABC.”**

**Question 5: Are there any local issues in the Wentworth electorate that concern you?  
Please choose up to 5 from the list below**

Privatisation of buses and public transport	222	50%
Planning controls for new buildings and redevelopments	204	46%
Congested roads and parking difficulties	181	41%
Home ownership affordability	167	37%
Overdevelopment of high rise	166	37%
Parks and tree canopy	150	34%
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	139	31%
Rental housing affordability	136	30%
Public high schools	132	30%
Solar panels and access to renewable energy	122	27%
Cycling infrastructure	116	26%
Waste management (eg: rubbish removal, dumping, recycling, plastics)	91	20%
Activities for youth beyond sport	52	12%
Mental health services	49	11%
Domestic violence support	43	10%
Access to community gardens	30	7%
Social services support	25	6%
Childcare options	25	6%
I don't have any concerns	9	2%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>446</b>	

**Question 13: “If Yes [to question 12, which asked whether the person feels adequately represented] – Why is this? Please tell us why you answered in this way by choosing 3 of the following and/or add anything that you think is missing.”**

My federal representative has helped me with an issue in the past	11	20%
Our system is not perfect but works well compared to others	27	49%
I agree with most of what my federal representative says	20	36%
My federal representative is out talking to people in the community	36	65%
My federal representative seems nice	12	22%
I have looked at how my federal representative votes in parliament and think most people in the electorate would agree with those votes	17	31%
My federal representative visited my community/faith group and listened to us	10	18%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>55</b>	



**Question 7: Are there any State or Federal issues within and beyond our electorate that concern you? Please choose up to 8 from the list below.**

Climate change	385	87%
Federal Integrity Commission: accountability and transparency in government	281	63%
Fossil Fuel usage and subsidies	268	60%
Treatment of Indigenous Australians	227	51%
Protections for water and the environment	222	50%
Growing wealth inequality	205	46%
Adani coal mine and proposed new coal power stations	203	46%
Media diversity, ABC funding and independence	202	45%
Renewable energy	194	44%
Vaccination roll out	144	32%
Gender equality & women's safety	123	28%
Housing affordability across Sydney and beyond	121	27%
Covid management	118	27%
Pep 11 - Offshore gas exploration	107	24%
Job insecurity and growing casualisation of workforce	102	23%
Cost of living and household debt	95	21%
Black deaths in custody	94	21%
Political Lobbyists	83	19%
Corporate tax reforms to prevent avoidance	82	18%
Quarantine management	78	18%
Illegal Land Clearing	77	17%
Intergenerational inequality	69	16%
Koala Habitat	67	15%
Aged care quality and affordability	61	14%
Tertiary education affordability	57	13%
Mental Health support	45	10%
Ageing population	37	8%
Youth opportunities	30	7%
Drug and alcohol abuse	29	7%
I don't have any issues or concerns	7	2%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>446</b>	

**“In the last 10-15 years transparency has decreased. They don't even feel they need to hide that they are not being transparent.”**

## Short form survey

### Question 1: What issues do you think are important and should be the focus for our Federal Government and your elected MP?

Arts funding	54	39%
Climate change and renewable energy	132	94%
Cost of living, housing affordability and wealth inequality	93	66%
COVID and pandemic management	52	37%
Economic management and jobs	46	33%
Education – funding, access and equity	79	56%
Environment, water and animal protection	101	72%
Federal integrity commission & integrity, transparency and accountability in politics	112	80%
First Nations/Indigenous peoples rights	90	64%
Gender equity and women's safety	90	64%
Health, Medicare and aged care	64	46%
Media diversity and funding the ABC	74	53%
Refugees and detention centres	86	61%
Religious Discrimination Bill & LGBTQ rights	56	40%
Young people	37	26%
I don't have any concerns	0	0%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>140</b>	

## Methodology

### Findings from KTCs

The graph at the start of the Key Findings shows how frequently each issue was mentioned in the engagement sessions. The KTC sessions were free flowing conversations, with notes taken by a scribe. An assessment was later made of the frequency with which issues were mentioned in the scribe notes.

### Survey results

Voices of Wentworth conducted 2 surveys: a long form survey and a short form survey. While the short form survey had fewer questions, the short form questions were the same or substantially similar to questions on the long form survey. Note that:

- The qualitative data from the questions with free form fields was used to prepare the Key Themes section. This includes questions 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18 and 20.
- Not all questions were mandatory. The number of responses received for each question below the data in the Appendix above.
- At most, there was less than a 4% discrepancy between the number of responses and the number of questions answered. Most questions had less than a 1% discrepancy.
- One exception to this is that over a third of respondents did not provide their number one issue (Question 8), for the reasons discussed in the Key Findings section (e.g. many respondents stated it was too difficult to choose just one issue, as they were interconnected, or the person had several 'top' issues).
- Limitations: this sample is not completely representative of the greater population in terms of gender ratio, age or geographic representation.



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