

## Democracy in Australia – Key requirements for strengthening democracy

Described below, are a number of reforms needed to strengthen public accountability and democratic practices in Australia. They are applicable to all political parties, governments and parliamentarians.

Accountability and democratic reforms are needed for the following reasons:

- We need electoral reform because the electoral system needs to be made more democratic.
- We need to strengthen the role of the Parliament.
- We need to make the Executive (Government) more accountable to the Parliament.
- The obligations of the Executive need to be more clearly set out and reinforced by legislation.
- The Executive should be more accountable to the people.
- We need an open and transparent system of government which encourages media diversity and protects freedom of speech.
- We need formal bodies to investigate corruption of all kinds and a formal system to deter corrupt practices.
- We need to engage citizens more actively in the governance of the country and to give stronger support to civil society organisations.
- We need to protect the human rights of all Australian citizens and of others who reach our shores.