

MiVote.org.au



MiVote

Values & Vision

An initiative of Centre for the Future whose purpose is to make the world work for everyone

## **MiVote - An initiative by Centre For The Future**

How can we make the world work for 100 per cent of humanity in the shortest possible time through spontaneous co-operation without ecological damage or disadvantage to anyone?

*Buckminster Fuller - American architect, systems theorist, author, designer and inventor.*

Centre for the Future is a globally networked enterprise focused on finding practical yet culturally benign solutions to Buckminster Fuller's challenging question. Formed in partnership with some of the most insightful thinkers of our time, we are leading a 100 year mindful uprising of leaders everywhere – helping them to revitalise or reinvent systems that are collapsing under the weight of a population exceeding seven billion people. Our purpose is to define, design and curate a viable world-system within which the truest expressions of what it means to be human can be realised.

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### **The world has changed**

In many ways, and with boundless energy, the world propels forward, forever hurtling towards new realities. Yesterday's knowledge has limited currency. Today's benchmark is yesterday's fading memory. As a result of this unstoppable momentum, what it means to be human is also evolving.

But not all change is positive, not all evolution is empowering and not all innovation is valuable.

The way that we, the most sophisticated inhabitants of this planet, coexist is under threat. The way we segment ourselves, coordinate, socialise, collaborate, unite, innovate, govern, protect, educate, the way we learn, filter, consume and evaluate have all changed to the point that they are nearly unrecognisable from a century ago.

Change, whilst inevitable and constant, is the greatest obstacle to the masses developing an enhanced human existence. This is so, as change remains the primary catalyst of fear which, as it turns out, is the greatest instrument of third party and self-inflicted oppression.

We the people are caught in a paradox of fear and dissatisfaction. On one hand we detest the direction the world is heading and yet we are too afraid to make the difficult decisions required to change our course. We have allowed fear to suppress hope. We have become victims of a narrative that diminishes the many and enriches the few. We have unwittingly handed over our voice and our will to a system that does not deserve it and has no capacity to use it effectively.

We have stopped asking if our world is evolving as it should (and could) and is developing in a way worthy of us. We have stopped asking, "What can I give?" and replaced that beautiful and powerful question with "What can I get?" We have been distracted by things while the fabric of our humanity has been eroding all around us.

While the world atrophies as a result of environmental degradation, religious friction, political ideology, racial tension, poverty, illness and war, we celebrate the superficial and unjust. Today, we choose to be shaped far more by what divides us than that which unites us. And yet, it is our unifying values that provide the greatest expression of our humanity.

We have a responsibility greater than ourselves. We are both the creators and custodians of the future that our children and grandchildren will inherit. WE decide what behaviour is acceptable, which solutions are to be adopted and what our 'non negotiables' will be. WE the people choose to accept the status quo or not. WE choose to question the traditions that limit us, or not. WE choose to hold those who govern to a high standard or not. But WE have forgotten this simple truth.

The reason Australia teeters on the edge of a moral identity crisis is that we have allowed the slow, steady erosion of our democracy. The leadership required to turn the ship around, visionary and competent leadership as well as political courage, simply cannot exist in today's political system. A system which has nothing at all to do with delivering the will people and everything to do with power and partisanship.

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In 2006, the ABS determined that political party membership represents 1.3% of the Australian adult population yet the political parties are required to deliver the outcomes sought by THEIR members. What about the other 98.7% of voting aged Australian's who want their politics, sans entrenched ideology?

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Democracy, as we have come to define it, is dead. It cannot be restored and we should not try to revive it. Authentic democracy died gradually, the victim of a thousand paper cuts.

Corruption - cut, corporate influence - cut, media manipulation - cut, ideological perversion - cut, power of lobby groups - cut, cronyism - cut, erosion of transparency - cut, cut, cut, cut....

We report on the money earned by political candidates because we understand that those who generate the most have the greatest power to manipulate the conversation and therefore buy political power. Ideas no longer win the day because our adversarial systems never allow one side to acknowledge that the other may have a worthy platform or solution to our problems.

Rather than mourn for the system that divides and oppresses us, let us come together to build a better, fairer and more valuable system. A system based on ideals that get us closer to, rather than further from where we want to go.

Imagine a future in which your grandchildren can genuinely participate in the decisions that will affect them. A system where they can access factual data rather than having to rely on ideological media spin. Imagine a system where all information and decision making is transparent. Imagine a world in which every child has equality of opportunity and no one must rely on the lottery of life - being born into a particular family, in a particular country, of a particular religion or race, to determine their trajectory.

Imagine a system where lobbyists and corporations have no access to decision making, and the greatest good was the measure of government policy success. Imagine a system based on solutions rather than entrenched ideology. Imagine a world in which your child's voice was heard and mattered. Imagine a world where governing was genuinely reflective of the will of the people.

You need not imagine any longer. We can build that world. In fact some of us have already started.

*We've been waiting for you to arrive and we are so glad you made it.*

## What is MiVote?

MiVote is a unique political uprising which focuses on the voice and will of the people.

Supporters of MiVote believe that the role of the people in a democracy is to determine the direction of the country / state / region and that the role of the government is to deliver that destination - or as close as possible to it - given the complexities and challenges of a modern, globalised world.

That is, no longer should governments and politicians attempt to pitch policy and legislation but rather communicate the choices available to the country / state / region and the ramifications of those choices and then enact what the majority of constituents choose as their favoured outcome.

*Politicians would once again become the working class and the masses would assume their rightful democratic place as decision makers.*

## MiVote is governed by some fundamental principles

### **Non-ideological. Non-partisan. Solutions-oriented.**

Our supporters come from all areas of the political spectrum and believe that no existing Party has the best solution to every issue and therefore a genuine 'solutions oriented' approach to policy and destination setting is the imperative.

### **No corporate donations.**

MiVote does not solicit nor allow any corporate donations of any kind. All donations and support come from individual citizens and all donations regardless of size are completely transparent.

### **No fixed positions.**

MiVote has no fixed positions on any issue and commits to bringing each issue to all members to voice their opinion. All issues are accompanied by non-partisan, factual information related to the issue to assist the members in understanding the context of the issue and form their own opinions about the best course of action.

### **Refrain from commenting on Movement positions until the Movement has voted.**

MiVote only has a policy position after voting by its members and a majority position has been reached. MiVote does not allow a simple majority for issue voting - a majority is considered to be 60% or greater.

### **Vote on the policies that matter to you.**

Members can vote on as many or as few policy issues as they wish.

### **Does not provide policy speculation.**

MiVote does not provide policy speculation prior to member votes on issues but does provide final policy positions to members and the media including the voting results.

### **Reps must be voted in by members.**

All MiVote representative positions must be voted in by members and all MiVote representatives at any level of government must adhere to the member majority position on all issues.

### **Limited 2 terms for reps.**

MiVote representatives can not choose to become career politicians. No MiVote representatives elected to any level of government can serve more than 2 terms and must serve as mentors for newly elected representatives immediately after their retirement.

### **Lower voting age.**

Membership of MiVote is open to every citizen above the age of 16 regardless of voting background, ideology or previous/existing party membership.

### **Vote via mobile app.**

All voting, communication and dissemination of information will be coordinated via a highly secure online digital platform.

## Value Propositions:

MiVote is underpinned by some fairly basic value positions

### 1. The People's Voice.

Democracy was always intended to be for the will of the people. The cynical will decry the impracticality of a consultative model but technology now provides a mechanism for what democracy demands; that leaders who represent the community understand the desire of that community. *MiVote Democracy has a simple but overwhelming and guiding ethos: politicians are, and will always be accountable to the people – us.* They are our agents and are there to implement our desires and to always work in the interests of the whole society. The politician's role is to implement our objectives and the peoples' agenda.

### 2. An informed constituency

True democracy is unattainable without an informed constituency. The will of the people can only fashion a world that represents their vision if they understand enough about the paths that are open to them and the destination to which each path leads. Democratically elected leaders are the instrument from which the will of the people is able to shape the environment. Informing the people is not just a requirement of political leaders, it is the fundamental requirement. An informed constituency does not imply that everyone needs to know about everything. Rather, people need to know how the democratic process to which they are entitled works; and they need to understand the facts, implications and choices they have on the issues that are important to them.

### 3. Transparency

The most dangerous development of modern democracy is the lack of transparency between political leaders and their constituency. Save for some understandable diplomatic and security issues, there is no information that the constituency is not entitled to know or should not have access to. The very nature of democracy requires transparency. How can anyone vote for any representative if they are not privy to the information that leads to policy or where policy is intended to lead us? People can only determine where they want to go, by first knowing where they are.

### 4. Accountability

The direct descendant of transparency is accountability. Politicians in modern democracies have mastered little but the art of obfuscation and denial. All great leaders want to be judged on their performance. All great leaders are buoyed by the challenges confronting them and the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity in a clear, transparent and accountable way. Democracy should provide for the ultimate test of performance as every few years the constituency has an opportunity to judge the incumbent leadership team on its performance. New democracy will see all political parties provide the constituency a list of unwavering deliverables that they can and then should be judged on. Gone are the days of 'non-core promises'.

## **5. Elimination of Corporate Donations**

Financial contributions from corporations, lobby groups and industry associations must end for democracy to be revived. There is no more perilous and divisive luxury in the political system than the ability for wealthy vested interest groups to have unfair access to decision and policy makers. Corporate self-interest is the destroyer of political probity. That the gap between rich and poor is growing in Western capitalist democracies throughout the world is an indictment on the democratic system as it operates today. That there are some who espouse a view that a country's success is determined by the strength of its most fortunate rather than its most vulnerable is as undemocratic a principle as could ever be conceived.

## **6. Equality of Opportunity & Meritocracy**

It is not possible to return to a more genuine model of democracy without a commitment to the concepts of equality of opportunity and meritocracy. A society that creates an environment in which every child has the same opportunity to succeed, and where that success is determined solely by capability rather than social status, inherited wealth, gender, race, religion or sexual preference, is destined to avoid a future rife with social injustice, poverty and rampant crime. Importantly, equality of opportunity should not be confused with equality of outcome.

## **7. A Secular Commitment**

We feel that religion has no place in policy creation and welcome members from all faiths and belief systems.



## **Why does MiVote matter?**

There is nothing more fundamental to freedom and opportunity than for people to have self-determination. This means that people have an informed say about what happens to them and the world in which they live.

MiVote lifts policy direction out of an ideologically adversarial landscape and allows each issue to be addressed as a stand-alone conversation. Further, each constituent has the opportunity to represent themselves on an issue by issue basis rather than voting for a party based on their views of one or two issues and being stuck with a variety of positions they do not support.

We are all complex and multi-dimensional beings. Not all members of political parties believe exactly the same thing about every issue and policy area. How could they? MiVote is the only political model which allows people to truly represent their views across a broad spectrum of decisions that will affect their lives.

Further, the removal of corporate interests and lobbyists from the political decision making theatre is crucial in ensuring that all individual voices are heard equally and that one cannot gain greater access or control by virtue of their economic position. Being poor or poorer than someone else does not make you less worthy of consideration, does not make your opinion less relevant or less accurate.

## How is MiVote different to our current system?

There is little similarity between the MiVote political model and the current operating system of current political parties.

Comparison	MiVote	Current System
Actively protects democratic values within its constitution and operating model	✓	✗
Approaches issues with a solutions oriented and non-ideological frame of reference	✓	✗
Allows all decisions and policies to be transparent to the constituency	✓	✗
Seeks constituent opinion before determining policy	✓	✗
Provides information to members on every issue that results in a movement position	✓	✗
Allows corporations, unions, think-tanks and other organisations to heavily influence policy	✗	✓
Allows institutional donations of any kind	✗	✓
Publicly indicates policy positions without a majority member decision	✗	✓
Allows people to be career politicians	✗	✓
Allows factions to select representatives	✗	✓

Traditional political parties are environments which serve individual political interests and those seeking power for personal, commercial or ideological gain. MiVote is only interested in serving the interests of an informed citizenry, where everyone has a voice and every voice is equal.

MiVote believes in the long game and that understanding where we are going as a community is more important than winning votes in short term cycles. MiVote exists because there are many sides to every issue and every side deserves a voice and consideration. Underpinning the MiVote uprising is core belief that all people are equal, without condition or equivocation.

## How does MiVote work?

The MiVote model is simple. For every issue of policy consideration, members experience the following activities:



### 1. Notification

MiVote will notify you of an upcoming policy vote. If it's a topic that matters to you, you can opt in to vote on that particular issue.



### 2. Information Pack

If you opted in, you will receive a digital information pack prepared by the MiVote research team – non-partisan professional research experts on a fact finding mission without the political bias. The digital information pack provides different frames of context for a particular policy issue. This may include an overview, reports, graphs, video, audio or other relevant material. Each member will have an opportunity to clarify the information prior to the vote. Each member will receive reminders counting down to the voting day / time.



### 3. Informed Vote

All members that opted into the vote will be required to open their information packs before they can register a vote. Assuming the information pack has been opened, they can vote on the frame that best represents the direction they would like policy to head.



### 4. Results

MiVote representatives will refrain from commenting on movement positions until the movement has voted. Within 36 hours of every vote, all members (whether they voted or not) will be notified of the result. Then the media will be informed of the movement's policy position as it relates to proposed or existing legislation.

## The framing of policy issues is imperative to genuinely representing the will of the people.

The current system requires a constituency to vote on fixed positions, pre-determined by political parties with a specific ideological mindset. There is rarely, if ever, articulation of what the legislation or ideology might mean in the long term – consequences, both intended or not, are rarely analysed. Complex policy positions are diminished to marketing slogans and facts are often replaced with selective and supportive data analysis. MiVote is interested in the step that comes before writing legislation. MiVote wants to know where the majority of people want the legislation to take us. Should we take a humanitarian, globally pragmatic, quality of Australian life or national security approach to asylum seekers and what do each of these choices mean? Should the nation approach mining exploration from a commercial or environmental frame? What would each of these choices mean to Australia, jobs, the economy and our place in the world?

If for example, the majority of MiVote members voted to take a humanitarian approach to asylum seekers, it allows the movement and any MiVote elected members of Parliament to address matters related to this issue (legislation, debate, negotiations) with a clear and focused position on delivering what its members have said they want. MiVote could never support any piece of legislation that was not supported by the majority of its informed and participating members.

Additionally, because each policy issue is addressed as a stand-alone issue, each member can consider each frame and vote on its merits. For example, a MiVote member could be supportive of widespread mining exploration AND marriage equality. The current system does not allow for this individualistic alignment with specific policies.

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## Who is involved in MiVote?

MiVote is an initiative of Centre for the Future whose purpose is to make the world work for everyone. MiVote is part of a mindful uprising with a single thread of alignment that binds its supporters. Each supporter of MiVote believes the current system has outlived its usefulness and no longer delivers a governing model that acts in the best interests of all citizens equally.

Current advocates come from all parts of the political spectrum. Our supporters include former and current members of all major political parties, religious conservatives from numerous religions as well as atheists, bosses and workers, rural and city dwellers, rich and poor, young first time voters and senior citizens. We have current and former political participants, iconic Australian thinkers, academics, corporate leaders and are supported across the entire country.

*If you care about where this country is headed, we care about your voice.*

### **Sponsor** Dr Richard Hames

CEO, Centre for the Future

As a philosopher-activist Richard's mission is to make the world work better for everyone and is motivated by the need to make a real difference to the world our children and their successors will inherit. By suggesting radically disruptive ideas and models, challenging practices that no longer benefit a majority of humanity, and designing better social architectures for organising, governing and leading, Richard is helping to create a civilisation that is more empathic, equitable and enduring - one that reinforces what it means to be human.

### **Author** Adam Jacoby

Director, Centre for the Future

Adam is a serial innovator with a twenty-year global history of starting fast growth businesses in sport, information and media. Outspoken and opinionated with a revolutionary bent, the charismatic father of three is leading the MiVote Movement using his expertise in strategic innovation.



MiVote.org.au



MiVote needs you to make this a reality

For more information please visit [mivote.org.au](https://mivote.org.au)  
To get involved today contact [admin@mivote.org.au](mailto:admin@mivote.org.au)