

Sandgate Town Hall Meeting – WE NEED A VOICE!

6:30 for a 7:00 PM start 30 th August 2024

My name is Chris Simpson and I'm a member of The Australian Democrats. I am also a Sandgate resident of more than 11 years with over 20 years in the Lilley electorate. I love Sandgate and I am worried about our future. We are not being served by our government representatives, and I am determined to change that. For example, minor parties are increasingly squeezed out, resulting in some communities losing their voice.

The Australian Democrats was founded in 1977 on the premise of Keeping the Ba****ds Honest, and the party has a proud history of holding both sides of politics to account. Sadly, our party lost its seats in the Senate, and this has enabled the major parties to operate as cartel parties and to form what is effectively a duopoly.

It is understandable that many voters feel disheartened and disenfranchised. However, we are not powerless when we unite and support a voice of reason; a centrist voice that will speak for our community. With your help I can be your voice!

The two major parties are becoming more and more similar. In recent years, all they are offering is very similar 'business as usual' solutions. This should not surprise us. After all, the major parties receive generous party donations from large corporations eager to influence government policies.

This is not the only reason why there is less and less transparency in government. For example, it has become clear in recent months that some government departments have become too dependent on private consultancy firms, and that confidential government information was leaked to other corporate clients.

The problems we are facing are serious, and hence not surprising that younger voters are losing faith in parties and politicians. To them, I say "we can do much better!" We want everyone to get involved and it is for this reason that I have invited two former Senators from The Australian Democrats as well as a respected senior academic from The University of Queensland to speak to this. We are grateful they can speak to our community here in Sandgate!

Dr Frank Mols is a senior lecturer in Political Science at the University of Queensland. Dr Mols is happy to share his knowledge about the many ways in which democracy has been eroded in recent years, and he will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We are lucky to have him here in Sandgate to talk to us.



Dr Michael Macklin is a founding member of The Australian Democrats (est. 1977). He grew up here in Sandgate, went to school at St Patrick's, Shorncliffe, and became the first Australian Democrat Senator for Queensland in 1980. Dr Macklin will reflect on his experience and explain why it is essential for the Australian Democrats to return to (State and Federal) Parliaments.



Ms. Lyn Allison is the current national president of The Australian Democrats (since 2019). Ms Allison began her political career as an independent councillor for the City of Melbourne in 1992 and was elected to the Australian Senate in 1996. She remained the federal leader of the Australian Democrats in the Senate until June 2008. Lyn has kindly offered to share her experience in politics and to explain how Chris Simpson can be part of a movement that was started in 1977.



I, Chris Simpson, have been a member of the Australian Democrats since 2022. I am currently serving on the Australian Democrats QLD committee and have recently been nominated as treasurer. I will be giving a closing statement in which I will explain why I am running in the upcoming State election, and why I would like you to become a campaign volunteer.



This event is free of charge, and everyone is welcome. I would be especially grateful to anyone prepared to donate and/or join The Australian Democrats. I would appreciate it if you could RSVP and confirm your attendance by contacting me personally via **phone (0461 454 977)**, **email (contact@chrissimpsonqld.com.au)** or **letter (PO Box 44, Sandgate, QLD 4017)**.

For more information, see my personal website:

www.chrissimpsonqld.com.au