

**MEDIA RELEASE – under strict embargo until 12 November 2014**

## ‘Not happy Jan’ – Young Australians engaged but not impressed with politics

Young Australians engage with democracy as much as older Australians – they are just not impressed with politics, according to latest research.

The research, conducted by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in conjunction with the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis at the University of Canberra, breaks long-held stereotypes of Gen Y that had seen them labelled as unengaged, uninterested and the ‘problem’ of our democracy.

Their views on democracy are being featured along side the views of Builders, Boomers and Generation X in a ground breaking new interactive exhibition at the Museum of Australian Democracy, *Power of 1: Does your voice count?*, which is exploring different generational attitudes to our political system.

Professor Mark Evans from the Institute for Governance says the negative stereotyping of younger generations as apathetic, apolitical and disengaged is “mad and dangerous for the health of Australian democracy”.

“Our research shows that young Australians passionately believe in democratic values, possess strong political views and are actively engaged in democracy. They simply do not like the current politics on offer.”

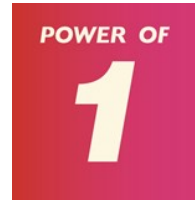
The research shows that 19 per cent of Gen Y Australians is dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Australia, making them the most dissatisfied generation in comparison to Generation X (15 per cent) Boomers, (16 per cent) and Builders (7 per cent).

GenY vlogger Christiaan Van Vuuren, who participated in the baseline survey, thinks that politicians have lost touch with younger generations.

“I feel there is a real generation gap between what I believe and what the politicians seem to be talking about.”

Despite their dissatisfaction, the research showed that Gen Y Australians are strong users of contemporary forms of political engagement, such as online advocacy, crowd sourced funding and the use of social media tools like Facebook and Twitter to generate discussion about political issues.

Daryl Karp, Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House is encouraging more Australians to contribute to this project by having their say about what they like, and don’t like, about Australia’s political system.



“There’s never been a more important time to have a conversation about democracy in Australia. This changing display, curated by the Australian people, will help open up dialogue and debate about our democracy,” she said.

*Power of 1: Does your voice count?* Is featuring the results of a baseline survey on generational views to democracy in an interactive exhibition. Visitors can contribute their views, either online or at the exhibition.

The exhibition will be updated every quarter with results and stories from visitors adding to the current survey data.

*Power of 1: Does your voice count?* is currently on display at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, and is open daily from 9am-5pm. The Power of 1 survey is also available online at [www.sbs.com.au/powerof1](http://www.sbs.com.au/powerof1)

For more information visit: [moadoph.gov.au](http://moadoph.gov.au)

**ENDS**

---

For further information please contact:

David Micallef, [david@fenton.com.au](mailto:david@fenton.com.au) , 03 9600 0006 / 0430 090 224

Cassandra Stafford, [Cassandra.stafford@fenton.com.au](mailto:Cassandra.stafford@fenton.com.au), 03 9600 0006 / 0452 646 411

### **Filming and interview opportunities**

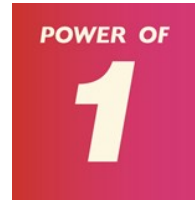
Filming opportunities are available at the *Power of 1* exhibition. The exhibition features four rooms with influencers from each generation and a tally room that visualises the results of the survey into a physical display.

Interview opportunities are also available:

- Daryl Karp, Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Professor Mark Evans, Director and Professor of Governance, Institute for Governance at the University of Canberra
- Rachael Coghlan, Manager – Community Engagement, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

### **About the survey**

Ipsos on behalf of the Museum of Australian Democracy and the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis at the University of Canberra conducted the national baseline survey. The survey had a sample size of 826 participants representative of all states and territories (including regional) and four Australian generations:



- Builders – Born between 1925 and 1945
- Baby Boomers – Born between 1946 and 1964
- Generation X – Born between 1965 and 1979
- Generation Y – Born between 1980 and 1995

References to the survey should credit the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House and the Institute for Governance at the University of Canberra.