xx/xx/2021

Hi XXXXX,

Following our recent conversation about *Voices of Mackellar,* I agreed to send you more information to help you understand who we are and what our objectives are. Below is a summary of what we are trying to achieve.

*Voices of Mackellar* was formed in August 2020 by a group of local residents, all volunteers from the Mackellar community, who believe in the value of strong, healthy, local consultation on federal issues.

Inspired by [*Voices 4 Indi*](https://voicesforindi.com/)and [*Voices of Warringah*](https://www.voicesofwarringah.org.au/)*,* *Voices of Mackella*r is taking the pulse of the community by asking local residents to talk about their broader issues and concerns.

We do that through our Kitchen Table Conversations (KTCs), where groups of up to 10 participants are asked for their opinions about key topics.

It’s important to understand that the *Voices of Mackellar* model is not a forum for debate but rather a process of listening to what the community values and learning about its issues and concerns.

KTCs are all about listening, so our facilitators are not in a position to question or debate the issues raised by participants.

KTCs are being conducted across Mackellar, engaging people from different parts of the electorate. We want to capture the concerns of a representative cross-section of the community, with all the opinions expressed recorded in complete anonymity.

The objective is to produce a report that will be publicly available by mid 2021. This report will be presented to our elected representatives to ensure they fully understand the opinions and concerns of the Mackellar community.

In addition, all candidates standing for the next federal election will be asked for feedback on the *Voices of Mackellar* 2021 report.

*Voices of Mackellar* will also invite candidates and all those who participated in KTCs to a community forum where candidates will be asked to outline how they will represent KTC views in the federal political arena.

We welcome the participation of everyone living in Mackellar and respect the diversity of people and opinions in our community. As a resident of Mackellar, we hope you will agree to take part in one of our group conversations. Each KTC normally lasts between 60 and 90 minutes and is held in your local area at a time that suits you.

Please let me know if you would like to come along to a KTC to be part of this exciting grassroots movement.

The experience from the federal seats of Warringah and Indi shows that positive community outcomes can be achieved from this process.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Your Key questions answered:**

What is *Voices of Mackellar*: *Voices of Mackellar* was set up by a group of people in Mackellar to provide a simple and effective process that allows people from the federal electorate of Mackellar to express their interests, concerns and ideas to candidates standing for the next federal election.

We believe the process will help create a range of strong and competitive candidates, and develop leadership with vision that truly represents and delivers for the people of Mackellar.

We are a non-partisan group who are interested in getting better outcomes from our democracy, to ensure we have representation that reflects who we are and what is important to us.

What and where is Mackellar: The federal electoral division of Mackellar covers an area from Palm Beach to Dee Why and west to Duffys Forest. It includes Avalon, Bayview, Beacon Hill, Belrose, Bilgola Plateau, Church Point, Clareville, Collaroy, Cottage Point, Cromer, Davidson, Dee Why, Duffys Forest, Elanora Heights, Frenchs Forest (part), Forestville (part), Ingleside, Ku-Ring-Gai Chase, Mona Vale, Morning Bay, Narrabeen, Narraweena, Newport, Oxford Falls, Palm Beach, Scotland Island, Terrey Hills, Warriewood and Whale Beach.

Who is behind *Voices of Mackellar*: Founding members are volunteers from the Mackellar community, including Leonie Scarlett (President), Rebecca Clarke (Vice President and Secretary), and Maree Nutt OAM (Treasurer and Public Officer). Committee members are Anyo Geddes, Sophie Scamps, Patti Burton and John Turnbull. Please note that *Voices of Mackellar* is not aligned with any political, religious or commercial organisation.

What is discussed at a Kitchen Table Conversation: The topics discussed are:

1. As a resident of Mackellar, what do you value most about living here?
2. What do you think makes for a strong community?
3. What are the particular issues that concern you?  What would you like to see done to address your concerns?
4. What are the qualities of a really good political representative?
5. Do you feel you are adequately represented at the federal level?
6. Specifically, what do you think would make for a stronger relationship between the people of Mackellar and their elected federal representative?

**To find out more about Voices of Mackellar, go to our website https://www.voicesofmackellar.org.au/**