

# Integrity in Public Office Project Report

## PART A: REPORT

The Integrity Project is about Quakers going public with our testimony to integrity. It is a concern we are taking into the public realm, as Quakers have done for centuries. The Project, independent from politicians and other organisations, contributes to the groundswell in Australia for Integrity in Public Office and the establishment of a strong federal Integrity Commission.

This Project was discerned and endorsed as a Quaker concern at the annual gathering, Yearly Meeting, in July 2022.

The two-year Project consists of:

- staying informed, encouraging and supporting proposed legislation to increase integrity in public office by contacting politicians and on social media
- maintaining a public witness by holding a banner at Parliament House in Canberra, with the words "Show Integrity in Public Office".

### Achievements/Activities

- Held two events 7-8.30 am holding a Quaker banner and another banner stating *Show integrity in public office* at Parliament House Canberra in the morning on two sitting different weeks in August 2022 and in February 2023
- Quakers from Canberra and Melbourne came to help with the two events
- Organised one Twitter workshop
- Publicising the event to Quakers and others beforehand and afterwards

### Practical learnings

- Finding where to protest - i.e., driveway to Parliament House car parks that is on Melbourne Avenue between State and Capital Circle
- Using Google doc to keep track of "to do" items e.g., publicity, planning, email lists, booking accommodation and videography
- Finding which company makes portable women-friendly light-weight banners (EasySigns)
- Deciding we only need 6 Quakers at an event to hold the 3 banners

### Issues/Analysis

Parliamentarians are getting used to our witness and responded by waving to us during the second action. Wies' federal MP said that he saw us and knows it is Wies.

Few Friends are active on social media and we decided not to organise a second Twitter workshop.

The actions take preparations but are easy to carry out (apart from inability to stop the rain). We have developed google doc files with the routines and are happy to share these with Friends who are interested to plan actions.

We are learning how to work with a videographer and how long to make the videos and if we have one or several speakers on a video. Quaker activists suggested we make one 2–5-minute video with a few speakers, not separate videos. The reason is people only watch one video of an event. We will try this in September.

There is a lot happening by community-based "integrity" organisations run by experts in this field and we are learning a lot from them.

Doing social media takes time and our Twitter presence has been constant most of the time but not continually. We comment on anything to do with Integrity in society by repeating the words: integrity, accountability, transparency.

The next action is on Thursday 7 September. Get in contact and join us. It's fun and energising.

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