

# Kitchen Table Conversations

## Host kit



### About Voices of Bean

Voices of Bean is a group of passionate Canberrans who want better representation for our community in the federal parliament. Our goal is to foster public involvement in democracy in Bean. We are politically independent and know it is time for change. We will listen to the diverse voices of the Bean community and find the ideal community backed candidate to represent us in the next federal election.

Our Values are:

- **Positivity.** We're not here to knock anyone, we want to do things better and be our best selves.
- **Honesty and Integrity.** Let's be the change we want to see.
- **Generous and Active Listening.** Every opinion starts from a good place and every voice needs to be heard. We're here to listen not to judge.
- **Mutual Respect.** We show respect to others and ask to be respected in turn.
- **Compromise to succeed.** Trust in team work; not everything will be perfect.
- **Commit and follow through.** We're realistic about our individual capacities.

### Why Kitchen Table Conversations?

The purpose of these Kitchen Table Conversations (KTC) is to find out what our community in Bean values, what issues concern us and what we are looking for in our elected representatives.

KTCs are safe places where a diversity of voices is encouraged and where we listen to each other. No voice is right, and consensus does not have to be achieved.

It is an enjoyable process, where important matters are discussed in a way that ensures all voices can be heard.

Responses from each conversation are compiled into a report which will guide the activities of Voices of Bean.

### The Conversation Questions are:

- What do you love about Bean (Canberra's south side)? and want to see happening more?
- What issues most concern you? What could be done about this?
- Do you feel represented by your federal politicians? What would you like to change?
- What do you think makes for a really good political representative?

### What is the Process?

The key steps in the Kitchen Table Conversations Process are:

1. You agree to host a Kitchen Table Conversation.
2. You invite friends, family, colleagues and people in your community who live in Bean (see map) to join you for a Kitchen Table Conversation (see the attached invitation template), and identify a scribe to record the discussion.
3. You host the Conversation at whatever venue you choose and the scribe records the discussion.
4. Ask participants to complete the Participants List, as well as the Participant Profile (which is anonymous).
5. With the permission of the group, take a group photo for your own and Voices of Bean's social media.
6. You circulate the scribe's notes to participants, allowing one week for submission of corrections. You then forward to Voices of Bean and they gather the findings into a report.
7. Conclude the event by encouraging participants to host their own event (on the Participant List, they can tick to receive this host kit). The aim is to have an ongoing series of Conversations to ensure a large and representative sample of the community is heard.
8. The report is used to gauge the community's interests, concerns and what they are seeking in their elected representative and will be used by Voices of Bean to guide their activities.

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### Post-Event Checklist:

Email the following to Voices of Bean ([hello@voicesofbean.org](mailto:hello@voicesofbean.org)):

1. Type up the scribe's report within 24 hours after the event. The host circulates it to all participants for any corrections. After allowing 1 week, send it to Voices of Bean.
2. Participant List (scan or send a photo). Voices of Bean will send a short voluntary survey to participants.
3. Participant Profile (scan or send a photo).
4. Group photo

### Timeline

- 1 February 2024: Information and briefing event.
- February-May 2024: Conversations take place, outputs are sent to [hello@voicesofbean.org](mailto:hello@voicesofbean.org), and new hosts are recruited.
- June 2024: The collated report is made public.

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### Kitchen Table Conversations Invitation (template)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Please join me and about 8 other people for a couple of hours to share ideas and opinions about what is important to the Bean community and what sort of elected representatives we want. These Conversations are being organised by Voices of Bean ([voicesofbean.org](http://voicesofbean.org)) in order to survey the issues of importance in our community and will form the basis for selecting and guiding a Community Independent candidate at the next federal election. Updates on the findings will be shared and a public report will be made available in June.

**Date and time:**

**Place:**

The *Kitchen Table Conversation* is a method of engaging the community that enables many small groups of people to strengthen our democracy and our future.

Through semi-structured conversations with our neighbours, friends and work colleagues, we can enjoyably exchange ideas and consider issues of interest and concern to us.

The *Kitchen Table Conversations* approach has recently been used to great effect, and with definite results, in Victoria and New South Wales in the 'Teal electorates.'

For more information about *Kitchen Table Conversations* visit: <https://www.vwt.org.au/projects/kitchen-table-conversations>

I hope you will be able to join us for what I know will be an interesting and enjoyable Conversation.

**RSVP to Host:**

**Name:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

### Kitchen Table Conversations Ground Rules

Meetings with people with good intent can still come unstuck. A simple set of ground rules can go a long way to achieving a productive Conversation. As soon as introductions are over, the host will establish the ground rules and gain agreement from all in the group. We suggest the following.

- We accept that everyone is entitled to have a say, and also to pass
- We will make the effort to listen to one another, not interrupt and wait our turn to speak
- We will try to stay on track, stick to the purpose of the conversation and end on time
- We respect people's right to their opinions even if we disagree
- We will try at all times to be constructive and always be courteous and respectful

### Topic questions for the Conversation

- What do you love about Bean (Canberra's south side)? and want to see happening more?
- What issues most concern you? What could be done about this?
- Do you feel represented by your federal politicians? What would you like to change?
- What do you think makes for a really good political representative?

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### Role of the Scribe

- The essence of people's ideas and opinions recorded briefly, accurately and impartially
- Be careful not to leave out any ideas and opinions -- especially ones you don't agree with!
- If people say the same thing, tick next to what you have already written
- Scribe could check with the group at the end of each question what they have said
- Whether the scribe does/doesn't participate in the conversation – is up to you
- Discuss your findings with the host straight away to get agreement
- Type-up dot-points within 24 hours, indicating multiple responses on the same point
- The host emails the dot-points from your Conversation to participants for any corrections, and after 7 days, to Voices of Bean

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### Kitchen Table Conversations Scribe's Notes (template)



What do you love about Bean...		
What issues most concern you...		

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Do you feel represented by your federal politicians...		
What do you think makes for a really good political representative?		

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### Kitchen Table Conversations Participant List

Send me Send me Host Kit										
Send me VoB News										
SUBURB										
EMAIL										
NAME										

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**Participant profile:** to be returned to [hello@voicesofbean.org](mailto:hello@voicesofbean.org) with the discussion summary

Host name .....

Location of the meeting .....

Group to tick anonymously:

Gender			Age							
Female	Male	Other	<18	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	75+



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Bean includes the suburbs below the red line, including Molonglo Valley, Weston Creek, Woden Valley, Tuggeranong, Rural southern ACT and Norfolk Island.



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