



THE COMMONS

Social Change Library

Highlights from
2022/23

VISION

The Commons Library vision is an Australia that has well informed, skilled, collaborative and effective movements for social and ecological justice.

MISSION

The Commons Library exists to make social movements smarter and stronger.

We support the power and effectiveness of progressive social change efforts by collecting campaigning best practice from Australia and around the world.

The Commons pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the land in which we operate and wherever the Commons Library website is accessed. The Commons Library staff team live and work on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation.

THE COMMONS IS GROWING!

1 Lots of Resources, Lots of Visitors



The Commons Library averages 10,000 visitors weekly from around the world. Our library boasts more than 1000 resources, which have been accessed over 2 million times.

Commons Library materials are used in many educational courses, provide orientation and training resources for countless organisations, and are being applied to hundreds of campaigns.

2 New collections



We have a total of 33 collections with these recent additions:

- [Global Grassroots Support Network](#)
- [PowerLabs](#)
- [Social Movement Technologies](#)
- [The Activist Handbook](#)

Coming soon:

- Democracy Resource Hub - resisting authoritarianism.
- Leaderful Organising - reframing leadership in movements.

3 Our Most Popular Resources



Visit:

- [The Four Roles of Social Activism](#)
- [Disinformation & Forms of Information Disorder](#)
- [Films About Social Justice Leaders & Victories](#)
- [Power Mapping & Analysis](#)
- [Naming an Advocacy Campaign](#)
- [Facilitation Tools & Techniques](#)
- [Campaign Monitoring & Evaluation](#)
- [Marshall Ganz Quotes & Wisdom](#)

RESPONDING IN CRUCIAL MOMENTS

The Commons Librarians monitor trends and needs in social movements. At times of crisis and opportunity the librarians gather and distribute relevant materials to assist campaigners and community builders to seize the moment.

Trans people are under attack.

Around the world right wing forces are scapegoating trans and gender diverse people. They are shutting down community events, restricting access to gender affirming care, and changing laws.

Jackie Turner researched the anti-trans movements in the UK and USA to alert Australians to the risks. Jackie approached the Commons Library to publish the '[The Anti-Trans Movement Framework](#)'.

In the week after the framework was published an anti-trans rally was held in Melbourne and attended by neo-Nazis. People were shocked and distressed but the framework helped them understand the connections. It was shared online 123 times and viewed on the website 1,888 times (and counting).

There has been a surge in community support for the trans community with strong attendance at counter rallies.

The Commons is proud to provide a platform to campaigners like Jackie.



"The Commons is the only space where I feel that I can speak directly to a community of committed change makers from across civil society. It is a brilliant resource for learning from other campaigns, finding inspiration, or considering the latest challenges. I choose to publish on The Commons because I want to contribute to a community of practice and provide other organisers with frameworks which they can take and build upon."

- Jackie Turner, Trans Justice Project

KEY PROJECTS FROM 2022/23

1 Organising Models Mapping Project

"It's a delight to work with The Commons on this. The team brings valuable experience in collecting and disseminating practice wisdom to the progressive sector."

– **Anita Tang,**
Australian Progress

In partnership with Australian Progress the Commons undertook research into how organising is happening in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. We gathered insights from 24 organisations working on a range of issues and at different scales. You can read the research findings: [Organising Models Mapping Project](#).

Thanks to ACF, 350, FYA, TWS, Amnesty International & Action Aid.

2 Making Advocacy Accessible

"I'm really glad to see you featuring Easy Read resources and to hear about your Making Advocacy Accessible project!"

- **Jackie**

The participation of people with disability makes groups, campaigns and movements stronger! The MAA project includes an educational webinar; translating resources into Easy Read so everyone can understand; guides to improving accessibility; and stories of campaigns led by people with disability. Visit the [Making Advocacy Accessible](#) collection.

Thanks to State Trustees Victoria.

3 Commons Library Skills Sessions

"Thank you so much for the online training sessions. I'm attending as many as I can but it's so great to be able to catch up on the ones I missed." - **Kata**

The Commons team presented a series of free training sessions on the skills we have developed running the library: writing book reviews, making infographics, conducting interviews, researching case studies and more. See the [Skills Sessions articles and recordings](#).

Thanks to the John T Reid Charitable Trusts for making this series possible.

COMMONS CONVERSATIONS

Commons Conversations was a summer series of radio programs in which campaigners shared their experiences and insights into activism, learning in movements, radical history and more. The program was broadcast by Community Radio 3CR.

You can [listen to each episode](#) on the Commons Social Change Library.

Campaigning for Disability Justice

Episode 1: Elly Desmarchelier & El Gibbs

First Nations Justice, Climate Justice & Youth Leadership

Episode 2: Millie Telford & Grace Vegesana

The Role of Learning in Creating Social Change

Episode 3: Laurence Cox & Iain McIntyre

Lessons from Organising in the Face of the AIDS Crisis

Episode 4: Sarah Schulman & Holly Hammond

Community Led Responses to the Climate Crisis

Episode 5: Maddy Rose Braddon & Holly Hammond

How Casual Workers Won Back Stolen Wages

Episode 6: Geraldine Fela & Iain McIntyre

Shared Values and Respect for Diversity are the Heart of Campaigns

Episode 7: Laura O'Connell Rapira & Holly Hammond

Thanks to the John T Reid Charitable Trusts for supporting this project.



"A huge movement that has been galvanized in this nation, particularly since 2020, with the Black Lives Matter movement, with the fires, with all these massive moments amongst the pandemic and the way that our community stood up. There's so many examples of when our people are leading we get the best outcomes, not just for us, but for everyone." - Millie Telford

Image credit: Seed

PLANS FOR 2023/24

1 Maintain & Grow the Library



Demand for the Commons Library is growing all the time. The librarians are kept busy responding to queries, adding new content, and tracking needs and trends to respond to. The Commons Library is a progressive institution for the longterm. Funding support for the core work of the Commons is crucial - so we can keep doing our part to make activism smarter and stronger.

2 Reach New Audiences



In the second half of 2023 the Commons team will be reaching out to people in Australian cities and regions outside the Eastern seaboard capitals. We welcome queries and input from people all around the country.

Stay tuned for the 'Welcome to the Commons Library' and 'How to Write for the Commons Library' webinars.

3 Take on New Projects



The Commons Library is currently seeking funding support for new projects:

- Climate Movement Mapping & Measurement
- Skills Building for Fair Public Debate
- Skills Building for Local Democracy
- Training for Trainers
- Coaching Program
- Language Translation & Curation

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