

# Deb Foskey MLA

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## All about John?

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey has described the ACT Government's approach to community consultation as terminally self-centred, following a debate in the Assembly.

"I called for the ACT Government to separately consult with different groups, including women and young people, in developing its multicultural strategy" Dr Foskey said today.

"But the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, John Hargreaves, assured the Assembly last week that he had met with so many different ethnic groups himself, that we could rest assured the new strategy will be excellent."

"It seems the Minister thinks a multicultural strategy is all about him. I had hoped he understood it should be about everyone else instead."

"This response is symptomatic of the ACT Government's commitment to consultation. It is either

- done by summit or Ministerial committee, which really means Ministers can 'cherry pick' the advice they want to hear, or
- it is simply the legal minimum, as in planning law, which means that most people only find out about it when it's all too late."

"The last Liberal Government produced a very good *Consultation Protocol*, which – sadly – it didn't always follow. This Government has taken the process further: its *Community Engagement Strategy* is more ambitious, and it is even less likely to pursue it" Dr Foskey said.

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