



# AUSTRALIAN SENATE

## OCCASIONAL LECTURE SERIES

### Are Australians disenchanted with democracy? Alex Oliver

Main Committee Room, Parliament House  
Friday 7 March 12.15pm to 1.15pm

A series of Lowy Institute Polls conducted in Australia and other countries in the Indo-Pacific region have uncovered a striking ambivalence about the ideal of democracy as the most preferable form of government. Alex Oliver examines these findings in the context of various studies both in Australia and other parts of the world, and attempts to draw some conclusions about the reasons for this trend, and what it may mean for Australia.

Alex is Director of Polling and Research Fellow at the Lowy Institute responsible for the Lowy Institute's polling program on foreign policy and public opinion, including the annual Lowy Institute Poll and polling projects overseas. Alex's research interests include Australia's diplomatic infrastructure, consular affairs, Australian and international public diplomacy and leadership in Asia. She has co-authored major studies for the Lowy Institute on Australia's diplomacy including the 2011 *Diplomatic Disrepair* with Andrew Shearer, authored the policy brief *Consular Conundrum* in 2013 and provides regular commentary on consular affairs and diplomacy in the Australian media.



Before joining the Institute, Alex was a senior associate at Mallesons Stephen Jaques Solicitors in Sydney, specialising in intellectual property and consumer law. Prior to her career in law she was an account director and brand manager at multinationals Leo Burnett Advertising and Unilever.

**Admission free—bookings not required**  
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