



DEMOCRACY COUNTS

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MEDIA RELEASE

Statement from Democracy Counts on Helen Haines

20.10.2026

Democracy Counts is shocked and deeply saddened by the news that Helen Haines MP has been critically injured after being struck by a car outside her electorate office in Wangaratta.

Helen is a person of integrity, warmth and decency who works to elevate the voices of those in her community and to ensure Australia's democracy delivers for its people.

We are thinking of Helen at this time, and of her family, loved ones, staff and community.

Our democracy only works if decent people with character, commitment, compassion and capability are willing to put their hand up to serve their communities by representing them.

If this incident is shown to have been a politically motivated attack, it will be an attack on democracy itself.

We must do more to ensure parliamentarians are safe in their work, and reflect on the culture that is driving dangerously undemocratic behaviour.

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About Democracy Counts

Democracy Counts is an alliance of organisations and Australians who care about the way democracy functions in Australia. We are calling for common sense reforms to protect our democracy: better civics education, investment in public interest journalism, political donation reform, ending the revolving door between lobbying and politics, and making online platforms better for citizens.

The growing alliance of more than 60 organisations includes the Centre for Public Integrity, Digital Rights Watch, the Local and Independent News Association, and the Alliance for Journalists' Freedom.



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