

# Press Release

## Singapore Contract Success

South Australian start-up company democracyCo has won a contract with the Singaporean Government.

DemocracyCo competed against a number of companies and non-government organisations across the country to secure the contract.

DemocracyCo will be travelling to Singapore in May to teach public servants how to run citizen's juries and assist them in the design of the country's first ever citizen jury process.

DemocracyCo are being contracted by the Ministry of Social and Family Development to run the training. The Ministry is responsible for services similar to that provided by Centrelink in Australia. They support Singaporeans with childcare assistance, maternity leave, adoption and fostering schemes and also employment assistance schemes.

Emily Jenke, Co CEO said "We understand that the Singaporean Government has been watching how deliberative processes such as citizens' juries have been being used by Australian jurisdiction's for some time and they have been particularly impressed by the work of the South Australian government in this regard."

"Our Premier's commitment to involving communities in the decision making work of government, through the Reforming Democracy agenda, is getting noticed. This commitment to trialling new approaches to decision making is assisting in showing others, all over the world, how the work of government can be done differently" Ms Jenke said.

"Governments across the world are faced with the same challenges of having to make decisions about increasingly complex issues but in the context of an environment that wants quick answers and easy solutions. Deliberative processes such as citizens' juries offer governments the opportunity to 'go slow' in order to 'go fast' and bring communities on a journey of discovery."

"The deliberative engagement work we are doing is show casing to the world a different way, a new way, a more successful way of pursuing complex reform" said Ms Jenke.

Emma Lawson Co CEO of democracyCo said "We (democracyCo) have a unique mix of experience, skills and abilities which make us very unusual in the market place and very competitive".

"DemocracyCo offers 'end to end' service in the delivery of deliberative engagement processes. Our competitors tend to offer just facilitation services or just recruitment and then there are of course communications companies. However, we do all of the above and provide ongoing support to our clients after the processes are completed to assist with successful implementation. We also provide training to government employees to assist them in continuing to improve how they engage with the community" said Ms Lawson.

“It is exciting to us that the services we provide in helping governments (or non-government organisations) can be exported to the world” said Ms Lawson.

“We can be so focused on those parts of the economy that trade in “tangible” exports such as wheat coal or manufactured goods that we forget that more than one fifth of our exports actually come from the service sector” Ms Lawson said.

“The services sector is a potential growth export sector for South Australia and we look forward to being part of that”.

#### **MEDIA**

For media inquiries please contact

Emma Lawson – 0421098355 or [emma@democracyco.com.au](mailto:emma@democracyco.com.au)

Emily Jenke – 0427834062 or [emily@democracyco.com.au](mailto:emily@democracyco.com.au)