

## Mary Griffiths: Open government, populism, social media, and citizens

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Australian online participation is built on the country's historical strengths: a robust democracy, multi-level governance, ballot participation, volunteering, and conventions of freedom of association and speech and new factors such as increased use of social media and an open approach by government. Social media has become the important feature in the dynamic between government and citizens: it provides a space for citizen-government relations to be re-fashioned, and also has the potential to influence the integrity and deliberative nature of democratic processes.

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