

## The Friday Forum

To be held by Teams Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
3.30pm - 5.00pm

### Trust in Government in the Era of COVID

Trust in government in Australia soared 17% in the last year, a record increase amongst the 27 countries surveyed by the Edelman Trust Barometer. This increase in trust has coincided with a governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic that has seen – with a few key exceptions – the effective quashing of community transmission. To what extent did the effectiveness of the response rely on more people placing their trust in government? Or is increased trust a response to the perceived competence of a government's actions? In the wake of the WA State Election – where record numbers of voters backed an incumbent government that took a hard line on border closures and lockdowns – is there a danger in placing too much trust in executive power? How should courts, parliaments, the media and business respond when voters overwhelmingly place their trust in a government?

**Chair: Prof. Paul Kenny**  
IHSS, ACU

**Speakers:**

**Dr Kyle Peyton**, Yale University (joining ACU in mid-2021)  
**Dr Annika Werner**, Australian National University  
**Dr Sarah Cameron**, University of Sydney  
**Dr Jill Sheppard**, Australian National University



Parliament House Canberra, (Image Social Estate/Unsplash)