

Searching for the average Canberran

Written by 666 ABC Canberra | Georgia Wilson
Wednesday, 05 October 2011 10:32

Residents of the nation's capital are used to being pigeon-holed from afar, but do any of the common stereotypes actually ring true?

Do you think you could identify the average Canberran, where they work, where they live, what they are interested in?

Is it a stereotypical concept or is there one person who represents the typical Canberran?

In late September 2011, 666 delved into the stereotypes, asking questions of a range of people to explore some of the assumptions held about the average Canberran.

Who is it?

By way of an introduction to the topic, we asked a mix of people about who they thought the average Canberran was, starting with just three words.

- Benny Hodges - "Honest, sincere, good listener."
- Maureen Cane - "Generous, compassionate, enthusiastic."
- Francis Owusu - "Safe, conservative, arts."

The Public Service

A common stereotype uttered by many is the idea that all Canberrans are public servants.

Is there any truth to this claim?

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We asked a longstanding public servant and a private sector businessmen to weigh in on the debate.

A political town

As the nation's capital, is it fair to assume the average Canberran is both politically aware and active?

What about compared with other Australians?

Locally based writer and prolific author Robert Macklin, unofficial Mayor of Manuka Frank Arnold and tour guide at Parliament House Monique Smethurst shared their thoughts.

Fyshwick and the adult industry

Canberra was once considered to be the "porn capital" of Australia - so how does this affect the local community?

Is the adult industry in Canberra driven by interstate business or a local market?

Public officer of the Australian Sex Party Robbie Swan as well as a Fishwick adult store manager Christie Lee spoke to us about it.

Canberrans: The experience of a born and bred versus a relocater

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This is the story of two men - one a longtime local with a rich family history in the area, the other a Sudanese refugee who moved to Australia in 2006.

How do they see the city? Do they share any similar opinions? Local resident Robert Campbell and Sudanese born Gwem Diing shared their experience.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO INTERVIEWS](#)

Many thanks to: Benny Hodges, Maureen Cane, Francis Owusu, Alan Tongue, Rohan Schearn, Robyn Archer, Bob Webster, Warren Overton, Robert Macklin, Frank Arnold, Monique Smethurst, Robbie Swan, Christie Lee, Robert Campbell and Gwem Diing for their contribution.

SOURCE: [666 ABC Canberra](#)