



LINDA REYNOLDS CSC

SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mr Richard Pye
Clerk of the Senate
Via email: Clerk.Sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Pye,

I write in relation to the inquiry by the Senate Standing Committee on Procedure into the proposal to replace the parliamentary prayer with an invitation for prayer or reflection.

As a nation, Australia is founded on a strong Christian tradition. Much of our heritage and success as a strong Western and liberal democratic nation has been built upon the values of fairness, equity, a just and rules based society and the continued creation and strength of family as the bedrock of our diverse Australian community.

In a time of rapid change where traditional cultural values and norms are changing and the trust Australians have both in their democracy and supporting institutions is being challenged, our foundations as a strong Christian values based nation holds increasing importance.

The Lord's Prayer therefore not only represents an anchor to these foundations, but an opportunity for members of Parliament to reflect on our values as a nation and what each and every one of us, as representatives of the Australian people, hope to achieve through our own perspectives and policy ambitions in upholding our obligation to the Australian people.

Just as Australian society has evolved since the Lord's Prayer was introduced in 1901, so too have the meanings and interpretations of its verses. As elected representatives from a diverse range of backgrounds and who hold a wide range of world-views, each of us use this time of reflection each morning in different ways. Senators who wish to use this time in another way which represents their beliefs and value system should do so as they see fit.

I believe it is appropriate the Australian Senate, upon commencing each morning, continue to offer the Parliamentary Prayer as an opportunity for reflection and guidance for its members.

Yours sincerely,

LINDA REYNOLDS CSC
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA
12 July 2018