



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 27 October 2009

Chair: Mr Mark Dreyfus QC, MP

Worthy opponents: The adversarial approach to constitutional change

The adversarial approach encouraged by the Yes/No pamphlet is more likely to see the truth emerge, according to Australians for Constitutional Monarchy (ACM). The Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee will hear ACM's views on the current method for informing the public about matters of constitutional change at a public hearing this Thursday in Canberra. One of the criticisms levelled against the Yes/No pamphlet is that it is designed to 'win' as opposed to inform.

The Chair of the House of Representatives Committee Mark Dreyfus QC said "One of the goals of this inquiry is to identify methods for educating the public and we are interested to hear Australians for Constitutional Monarchy's views on why they believe the current approach is the right one.'

In determining the most effective way to communicate information concerning the proposed change to voters, the Committee will hear from Mr Rod Cameron, founder of ANOP, a strategic market research consultancy.

The Committee Chair added "While identifying the right information to be provided to voters is essential, these efforts are undermined if we cannot determine the most effective methods to communicate this to the public".

In addition to the structure of the Yes/No cases, the Committee will hear evidence concerning current and future processes including:

- Who should be responsible for drafting the information; and
- What are the best means for communicating the information to the public.

Details of the public hearing:

Date: Thursday 29 October 2009

Time: 9.30am – 10.15am Rod Cameron, ANOP

10.15am – 11.00am David Flint, Australians for Constitutional Monarchy
(Sub 16)

Location: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

Webcast: (Audio only) Live on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Members of the public are welcome to attend this public hearing.

For interview:

Contact the Committee Chair, Mr Mark Dreyfus QC, MP on (02) 6277 4305 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (03) 9769 1955. Or Mr Dreyfus' media adviser, Tim Lisle-Williams on 0431 178 280.

For background information please visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/laca or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.