

The Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I was about to write a submission regarding the proposed plebiscite, and to do so as an ordinary Australian who has spent the last 30 years in mostly working class areas of Sydney as an Anglican priest (and also for the last 10 years or so as an honorary hospital chaplain). The people of those areas (Bankstown and Campbelltown) are mostly **Labor voters** and many are of "**ethnic**" **background**. They did not vote "no" because they wanted an elected president but because they supported the present system and were and remain suspicious of an unrepresentative intelligentsia whose voices in dominate the media to a large extent.

I am angered that submissions have been invited with very little publicity and at the start of the school year when many parents and others are preoccupied with all that this involves. I am angered that at a time of such financial turmoil adversely affecting so many in our society, especially the poorest, that there is a proposal to waste so much money on plebiscites, or on another referendum which I am certain will have the same result as did the earlier referendum.

However, I could not present a case against holding a plebiscite in better terms than are set out below in a submission to you sent from a friend in Rome, a copy of which he also sent to me. I hope the arguments set out within it are very carefully considered and that the dangerous foolishness of a plebiscite be discarded.

Yours faithfully,
(The Revd Dr) John Bunyan
Hon.Chaplain, Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital,
Hon.Chaplain, Australian Intelligence Association & member Australian Intelligence Corps Association,
Hon.Chaplain, National Servicemen's Association (Macarthur-Ingleburn)