

Dear Senators

**SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE PLEBISCITE
FOR AN AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC BILL 2008**

My submission is simple. It is my wish that the Bill be passed by the Parliament.

I strongly believe that the many good reasons postulated for an Australian republic in recent years far outweigh the risks of moving from our current system. I am confident that the risks can be readily managed. The following points are, for me, the main reasons why Australia should become a republic.

- I am a regular international traveller for both business and leisure. In my experience it is not uncommon for foreigners to be confused and / or bemused at Australia's status. Many a time I have been asked ".what is your status, are you an independent country or are you not still a part of England?" or "how can your Head of State be the Head of State of another country?" ".but the Governor-General is just a representative of the Queen of England." Becoming a republic would remove this confusion.
- Becoming republic would mean that our Head of State would act truly and exclusively in Australia's interests, rather than first and foremost in the interests of another country. This is evident when the Queen and the heir to the throne (our Head of State and future Head of State), represent the interests of the UK, in trade and other matters, in preference to Australia's interests.
- Becoming a republic would demonstrate a level of national maturity both within our own Australian community and within the international community and would complete the process commenced at Federation.
- Most importantly, becoming a republic would mean that my children, rather than a foreigner, could become true Head of State of their own country. It is an appalling travesty that at the time of writing the only person who can become the true Head of State of Australia is a person who is not an Australian.

In addition to the above it is my further wish that should the plebiscite be resolved in the affirmative by the electorate that the Minister be required to provide, during the term of the parliament following the plebiscite, a model or models for a republic and a roadmap for transition to a republic, to be put to the people in a referendum at the following election. In other words I do not want the situation to arise in which the people decide that they want Australia to be a republic and the subsequent government, no matter from which political persuasion, either ignores the result of the plebiscite, or delays intentionally or otherwise in acting upon it.

This submission is respectfully submitted.

Yours sincerely

Peter Ball
2 February 2009.