

The Committee Secretary

6 February 2009

The Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee

The Department of the Senate

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

I wish to present a submission opposing the Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008

A plebiscite is not the way to proceed. The proper process for constitutional change

is set out in section 128 of the Constitution ; which is the Referendum process.

The Republic Referendum in 1999 lost both nationwide as well as in all States.

Amending the Constitution is a complex matter which cannot be explained in a simple

Populist question , with a yes or no answer.

This is not the time to spend money on a matter which has already been voted on

By the electorate.

It is not possible to achieve any significant advantage in governance by change

To a republic from our constitutional monarchy which has been developed over the

108 years since Federation.

Yours faithfully