

Submission to  
The Sanding Committee on Finance and Public Administration.  
On  
Republic Plebiscite.

I wish to record my opposition to the plebiscite for the following reasons.

**Constitutional Status of Queen.** Whether Her Majesty, Queen of Australia, is a citizen of this country is irrelevant. Whether she is or not makes no difference to her constitutional position in the country. It has never been disputed that she is Sovereign of Australia, and therefore the numero uno Australian. Common sense dictates that she must also be an Australian citizen. However if there is confusion on this point a simple Act of Parliament would clear up the matter. There is no need to re-write the constitution to resolve this issue.

**Confusion about Head of State.** Our Governor General, since Federation, has carried out all duties and accepted all responsibilities of Head of State. Only members of the Republican Movement are confused on this issue, but have already, by default, conceded the point. Whitlam, nor anyone else at the time of The Dismissal or since, have challenged Kerr's authority. Constitutional authorities agree that, under the Australian Constitution, only a Head of State can dismiss a Prime Minister and parliament.

**No Public Demand.** There has been no public demand to re-raise the Republic issue. The call is obviously coming from a relatively small but powerful group of parliamentarians, academics and journalists. There is no unanimity within this group: witness the stupidity of the proposal put forward at the previous referendum. They are like spoilt children, who do not want that which they already have, but don't know what they do want. They should simply be ignored.

**No Mandate.** The Rudd government has no mandate, even though the subject got a brief mention during the recent election campaign, to attempt to resurrect this dead and buried issue. They have no moral right to throw more taxpayers money into this bottomless pit. I would respectfully suggest that the committee should recommend accordingly.

R.B.Dewar.  
14-01-09.