

Gino Cocchiaro  
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The Secretary  
Senate Legal And Constitutional References Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senators,

Congratulations on establishing this inquiry into an Australian Republic.

There are a number of advantages in Australia becoming a republic. Generally, I believe that becoming a republic would demonstrate our progression as a nation. More specifically, I believe that becoming a republic would assist in providing a sense of identity and belonging to so many of our citizens.

As a country that prides itself on values such as social inclusiveness, understanding, diversity and strength within this diversity, it seems entirely contradictory that a great number of our citizens feel that our current head of state does not represent their interests, has no understanding of their culture and does not appreciate the strength that their diverse backgrounds bring to our country.

It is crucial, especially at such a turbulent time that all Australians, no matter their background, can identify with their country and feel accepted, included and appreciated. Having a head of state that is from this country and that is truly representative of this country and all its citizens would have a significant impact on our people's sense of identity and feeling of belonging.

As a young Australian of Italian background, I believe that once such an important issue is resolved it would only bring about positive results for this country, in all areas.

I would be very keen to present my views at your Adelaide hearing on general issues and specifically addressing the involvement of our culturally diverse community in the process of obtaining an Australian Republic and Australian Head of State, should I be invited to do so.

Sincerely,

Gino Cocchiaro