

Subject: proposal to replace the parliamentary prayer with an invitation to prayer or reflection

Dear Mr Richard Pye,

As an adult I have become an athiest, though I grew up attending Anglican church youth group and attending church services for Christmas. I have numerous friends and family members of various religions and no religion at all - protestant, catholic, hindu, muslim (from various ethnic traditions), jewish, jain, methodist, jehovah witness, brahma kumari and baptist. I have attended numerous religious ceremonies for funerals, weddings, christenings and other events but I don't think a specific prayer is suited to our secular federal parliament.

The basis of our Westminster system of democracy is the separation between Church and Government. As such, I support the proposal to replace the parliamentary prayer with an invitation to pray or reflect "upon the responsibilities to all people of Australia, and to future generations". I think it shows greater respect for our multicultural community and secular government.

Kind regards,

Cath Blakey