

# **Citizens Initiated Referendums or Direct Democracy**

**By A. J. Gilmore & R. I. Adams.**

## Overview:

### **A Process for Citizens Initiated Referendums:**

.Citizens initiated referendums occur at each Federal election (may be extended to state and local)

.Five referenda **propositions** are attached to each ballot paper at the election.

.The referenda **propositions** are given a 'Yes' or 'No' vote and voting is not compulsory.

.The successful 'Yes vote' referendum **propositions** must be implemented within the life of the ensuing parliament. (The Governor General can enact a successful **proposition** if the elected government fails to do so during the lifetime of the parliament)

.Only persons on the electoral roll are eligible to supply one **proposal** for on- line polling. The wording of the **proposal** cannot be changed after it has been submitted.

.The referenda **propositions** are developed from on-line polling of **proposals** with the top five **proposals**, each having received the absolute majority of "Yes" votes, becoming **propositions** for consideration at the next election.

.Secure on line polling of the **proposals**, is undertaken by the Australian Electoral Commission during the lifetime of the parliament. (Cut off period of one month before the announced date of the election) Only persons on the electoral roll are eligible to vote once for any particular proposal.

.An eligible person may submit their **proposal** on the Internet, or via an Australian Government computer terminal at any Federal Government branch, (such as Medicare), or in written form at any Post Office.

.All eligible persons (voters) must be registered. Each registered voter is provided with a SIN (Secure Identifier Number) when voting at a future election, or by on-line registration with the Australian Electoral Commission as an entitled voter. This number is used to eliminate fraud as an identifier when accessing on line polling and/or proposal placement

.Polling results are advertised in the media and may be aired for public debate thereby enhancing democratic principles.

.Persons who raise a legitimate **proposal** must be prepared to have their name published online alongside their referendum **proposal**.

.An Australian Electoral Commission supervisory committee working under the guidelines of an act of parliament may vet frivolous, vexatious, racist and or unlawful **proposals**. Appeals against such rulings are allowed at the expense of the applicant.

.A successful **proposition** may be challenged by a contrary **proposition** after an interval of two parliamentary terms. (ie six years) This gives a successful **proposition** a significant lifetime for judgement by the people should a groundswell of objection occur.