

10 March 2011

Committee Secretary

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

I believe that the citizens of the Australian Capital Territory should have the same self-government rights as any other state in Australia.

As the capital of Australia, it would make sense for us to be able to govern ourselves and in doing so, set an example for the rest of the country. Instead, we must rely on our superiors to think of solutions to our problems. Local issue, local solution; No one can know what the ACT needs better than the ACT, so it would make sense for us to have the power to make laws for ourselves. The ACT has been self governed for almost a century; I think we can be trusted to make our own laws.

Furthermore, it is unfair that states have so much say in their issues while the ACT has almost none. Australia prides itself on being fair and equal to everyone, but in order to keep that up, everyone should be equally represented. For example, Tasmania has almost the same population as the ACT, but Tasmania is represented by 12 senators, while the ACT is only represented by two. The fact that the ACT was created after the constitution was written should not affect the way ACT citizens are represented. We should be entitled to have our opinions heard just as much as any other state.

Sincerely,

Tahlia Makunde.