
Citizen Initiated Referendum Bill 2013

A Bill for an Act to enable the citizens of Australia to initiate legislation for the holding of a referendum in relation to altering the Constitution, and for related purposes

<https://senate.aph.gov.au/submissions/pages/index.aspx>

Dear Committee,

I am writing to support this bill.

1. One day every four years is unreasonable. It means that if the deadline is missed, it could be eight years from the start of the process until the matter is put to a referendum – this is ludicrous. I consider that for this system to work there needs to be 4 days every year.
2. 1% of voters which is approximately 145,000 voters is expected for the referendum – that's ridiculous. That is many more than the total membership of any political party that currently has all the say on what legislation is tabled in our Parliament.
3. I consider that 13 months to collect signatures is insufficient and suggest that two years would be more appropriate.
4. If a suggestion of a fee is at all necessary, it should be prescribed in the legislation, that it should be expressed as a multiple of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) (so that it remains appropriate over time.)
5. I consider it to be appropriate that the fee be *refunded* if the referendum is successful on the basis that the proposer has obviously performed a public service to the good people of Australia.

Yours sincerely,