

I wish to make the following submission to the Procedure Committee inquiry into the parliamentary prayer in standing order 50:

I oppose utterly any change to the parliamentary prayer required in Standing Order 50.

I submit the following:

The requirement for the prayer is a very minimal expression of humility by the senate, recognising that simply being elected does not spontaneously provide any special wisdom or expertise and that our duty to the country necessitates an appeal to God for guidance in our endeavours.

Whether or not individual senators believe in Christianity has no bearing upon the value and importance of the daily prayer. The historic Judeo-Christian foundations of our nation and its laws provide a direct link to the prayer which whether they are Christian, hold other beliefs or believe in nothing greater than themselves, they should still respect and observe these in the same way that they do the other important customs and traditions of this House.

From a personal standpoint, I think the idea that senators do not need the guidance of a higher power reflects a dangerous hubris should be a source of great concern to the Australian people.

If any changes are to be made to Section 50, I would propose that we instead abolish the so-called "Acknowledgement of Country" which has not come from aboriginals themselves but has simply been manufactured by left-wing white activists, adopted by the Gillard Government and inexplicably continued by her supposedly conservative successors.

As leftist virtue-signalling of the worst kind, this secular genuflection to prior aboriginal occupation creates a hierarchy of citizenship in which those who have come to Australia later have their rights to be here devalued, the logical extension of which is to require recent immigrants to humbly acknowledge the superior rights of earlier settlers!

I would therefore propose that Standing Order 50 be instead be amended as follows:

**Retain** current wording up to and including "Amen:"

Delete all words following this, to wit, **delete** *"The President shall then make an acknowledgement of country in the following terms:*

*I acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples who are the traditional custodians of the Canberra area and pay respect to the elders, past and present, of all Australia's Indigenous peoples."*

Kind Regards,

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