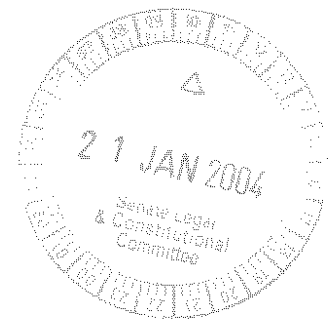


The Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



17 January 2004

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into an Australian Republic

I place on record my objection to the fact that the Inquiry does not canvass opinions from the majority of Australians who do not wish to change to a republic, and I would like it formally recorded that I do not agree with any change to our existing Constitution.

Also, I am totally opposed to any plebiscite being held, as neither the Constitution nor the laws of our country provide for plebiscites. Unfortunately the question/s can be purposely framed to obtain the answer/s any Government wants.

Only four years ago the people of Australia voted 'NO' to a republic in 72% of electorates, and in all States and the Northern Territory. Therefore it is clearly not the people who wish to make a change to our existing system of government, and of course in a democracy such as ours it must be the people who say what is to happen, not those individuals or small groups who want to push through ideas of their own.

As to the 'role' of President, there are problems connected with this: Someone who has been appointed by Parliament will simply be a politician, and someone elected by popular vote will assume an authority contesting that of the Government.

I believe that either type of President will seriously undermine the democratic nature of our Constitution, which has served our country well; and the motives behind any moves to change the present successful system of government must be called into question.

Yours faithfully

Rosemary Davies

Rosemary Davies (Mrs)

Emerald _____