

Highgate Hill Qld

30 March 2004

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

Dear Sir/Madam

This submission is in response to your discussion paper on The Australian Republic. I regret that it is in effect submitted in mixed media: I have an answer to your first question, that follows, but my reasons are contained in materials that have been printed and should be available to you through the Parliamentary Library.

Question 1 asks: Should Australia consider moving towards having a head of state who is also head of government?

My answer is: Yes. I believe Australia should move towards creating an executive presidency, similar in many respects to that operating in the United States.

My reasons are contained in two documents.

The first is: Coming of Age, Charter for a new Australia, by David Solomon. University of Queensland Press, 1998 and in particular chapters 1, 2 and 3.

The second, provides a different vision of how the Parliament should be restructured to better incorporate this system. It is detailed in: Parliament and the Public Interest. Lectures in the Senate Occasional Lecture Series, 2000 – Papers on Parliament number 36. My contribution is the first in that collection, and has the heading, “A Single-Chamber Australian Parliament?” (beginning at page 5).

These chapters together with my answer above, constitute my submission to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

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