

Ms Louise Houston
GLENSIDE SA

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Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
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To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Inquiry into an Australian Republic**

It is a natural progression for Australia to become a Republic.

That progression does not indicate any ill feeling toward the British Monarchy. It does not show desire by the Australian people to forget about our history. It does not attempt to rewrite the substantial role that Great Britain played in laying the firm foundation of the Australian political and legal framework.

That progression indicates that as a nation we are independent and responsible. We no longer require a guiding hand or a safety net.

Australia has shown the world that our economy can withstand world recession, our defence forces can offer strategic support, our athletes can bring home the medals, our produce is first class and is demanded worldwide and we can educate some of the greatest thinkers of the 21st century.

It's time that we have the final word.

As Australians living in 2004, many of us do not consider ourselves to be British and for many of us, we are second, third, fourth perhaps even fifth or sixth generation Australians. And increasingly our friends are first generation Australians, migrants from non English speaking backgrounds, adding their culture and traditions to our aromatic melting pot of life in Australia.

What do we have in common with the British Monarchy?

We understand and appreciate our history, but we are not beholden to it.

The Australian political and legal systems are two of the best systems in the world.

But we don't have it all.

By allowing Australians to aspire to the highest office of our nation, we will have achieved complete democracy and complete independence. We will have it all.

Yours sincerely

Louise Houston