

The key features of our model for an Australian republic with a directly elected Head of State

OUR GOAL

Our goal is an Australian republic with an Australian elected directly by voters as our Head of State.

OUR MODEL

Our model for a republic is one that:

- delivers a genuine directly elected Head of State chosen by Australian voters,
- has no politicians standing between voters and candidates meeting eligibility criteria,
- doesn't involve politicians picking a Head of State for us,
- has no politicians telling voters who they are allowed to vote for,
- works within a traditional Westminster-style parliamentary democracy,
- reflects the major features of a system that has worked successfully in Ireland since 1937 to directly elect the Irish President, and
- like the Irish system, provides codified powers for the President to avoid any conflict between them and the government led by the Prime Minister.

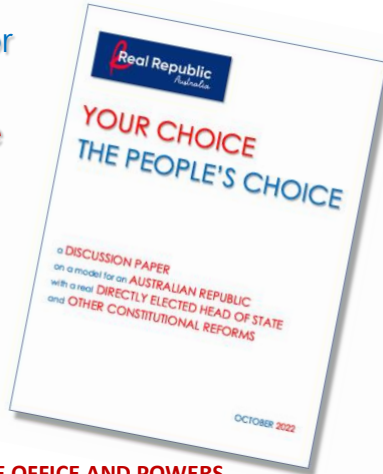
WHAT IT'S NOT

Our model works within a Westminster-style system of government and we do not seek a US-style executive presidency.

OUR HEAD OF STATE

Our model for a genuine directly elected Head of State will:

- end the current situation where our Head of State is the monarch of another country living overseas,
- ensure an Australian is Australia's Head of State and is chosen by Australians themselves, not politicians,
- end the current situation under which no Australian can ever be Australia's Head of State,
- end the particularly unjust and intolerable situation that rules out descendants of our First Nations from ever being our Head of State, and
- provide for an Australian as our Head of State to represent our nation and project Australia's values, its people, and its values and opportunities at home and on the world stage.



THE OFFICE AND POWERS

Our model proposes a Head of State who:

- is elected in a nationwide ballot on a fixed election day for a five-year term and can serve a maximum of two terms,
- can exercise those roles, powers, and responsibilities codified in the Australian Constitution as amended on the authority of voters subject to a successful republic referendum,
- can exercise other roles, powers, and responsibilities as outlined in relevant laws passed by the Federal Parliament,
- can fulfil the duties given to them by the Constitution or laws in line with Westminster system practices and conventions and only on the advice of or in consultation with the Prime Minister and executive government so as to avoid any conflict between the roles of Head of State and the government, and
- is bound by the Constitution and relevant laws to recognise the primacy of the elected federal government in the governance of nation.

THE CANDIDATES

Our model proposes that:

- any Australian aged 18 or over who meets eligibility criteria outlined in our discussion paper should be free to seek election as our Head of State without the approval of any politician or any state or territory parliament,
- anyone who has been an elected member of a local, state, or federal legislative body is barred from seeking election as Head of State for five years,
- the Australian Electoral Commission assess the eligibility of those seeking to nominate as candidates.

HIGHER STANDARDS

We propose new rules for choosing a Head of State that set new benchmarks for integrity, transparency and accountability by:

- requiring that those seeking to stand for election must satisfy the AEC that they have no unresolved commercial, financial, or taxation disputes that would affect their eligibility as a candidate as well as provide details of their pecuniary interests, and
- those seeking to be candidates agree to place all assets and investments listed in their pecuniary interests register in a blind trust for the period in which they serve as Head of State.

THE CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION

We support limits on donations to candidates and caps on campaign spending plus a short campaign period and restrictions on promotional activities by candidates.

WHAT NOW?

We want to see Australians directly involved in delivering a republic with an elected Head of State through:

- staging a new politician-free body – an Australian Constitutional Assembly – comprising average voters reflecting the Australian community to determine workable options for a republic model,
- those options to be put to voters in a nationwide non-binding plebiscite asking voters two vital questions:
 - do you support a republic?
 - what model for a republic do you favour?
- advancing the preferred model to a referendum to ensure it has the best chance of success.

The Real Republic Australia believes a real direct election model will be preferred by voters at a plebiscite and referendum.

RESPECTING THE ROYAL FAMILY

The Real Republic Australia believes the debate about a republic:

- should never be a platform for attacking the British royal family, and
- must be a positive one about our future as a nation – a view shared by senior royals who have stated they will respect our decision.

For full details and a copy of our discussion paper visit our website realrepublic.au

