

Introduction

Saturday, 6 November 1999 is Referendum Day. Along with other eligible Australians, you will be required to vote “Yes” or “No” to each of two proposed laws to change the Constitution.

To become law, each proposed change requires the approval of a majority of electors nationally and a majority of electors in a majority of States.

The Constitution is a “blueprint” which defines the Australian system of national government and establishes the legal basis for Federal Parliament to make laws. The Constitution itself guarantees that the only way this “blueprint” can be changed is by a referendum - that is by asking all eligible electors whether or not they approve the proposed laws to change the Constitution. This is what will happen on 6 November.

The Two Proposed Laws

1. Constitution Alteration (Establishment of Republic) 1999
 - to alter the Constitution to establish the Commonwealth of Australia as a republic with the Queen and Governor-General being replaced by a President appointed by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commonwealth Parliament.
2. Constitution Alteration (Preamble) 1999
 - to alter the Constitution to insert a preamble.

This Pamphlet

This pamphlet contains two important items of information which I am required by law to send to each elector personally.

Firstly, you will find the arguments for and against the proposed changes which have been authorised by members of the Commonwealth Parliament who either favour or oppose the proposed changes. These are the Yes/No cases. The arguments are those of the parliamentarians and the text is unedited by the AEC.

Secondly, those parts of the Constitution which will be amended if the proposed laws are agreed to, are also shown. Because of the number of amendments which would need to be made, I have included the full text of the Constitution to avoid any confusion as to what parts of the Constitution are proposed to be amended.

This pamphlet is an important source of information and is designed to help you decide “Yes” or “No” when you have your say on 6 November. I urge you to read it so that you may make an informed decision on Referendum Day.



Bill Gray AM
Electoral Commissioner

Enrolment & Voting Enquiries

For enrolment and voting enquiries call the AEC's national enquiry service on 13 23 26 or visit the AEC's web site at referendum.aec.gov.au

Interpreting Services

Arabic	1300 720 132	Macedonian	1300 720 139	Spanish	1300 720 148
Cambodian	1300 720 134	Mandarin	1300 720 142	Turkish	1300 720 149
Cantonese	1300 720 135	Polish	1300 720 143	Vietnamese	1300 720 152
Croatian	1300 720 136	Portuguese	1300 720 145	All other languages	1300 720 153
Greek	1300 720 137	Russian	1300 720 146		
Italian	1300 720 138	Serbian	1300 720 147		

The Yes/No cases have been translated into the languages listed above and are available at the AEC's web site or on request by phoning the national enquiry service.

The Yes/No cases are available in the following alternative formats

- audio cassette • braille • ASCII disk • large print

If you, a friend or relative, require the Yes/No cases in any of these formats call the AEC enquiry service to request your free copy.

Telephone Typewriter (TTY) facilities

NSW	02 9375 6305	WA	08 9470 7232	NT	08 8982 8017
VIC	03 9285 7172	SA	08 8237 6546	ACT	02 6271 4701
QLD	07 3834 3425	TAS	03 6235 0556		

Enquiries 13 23 26
referendum.aec.gov.au

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Helping you have your say.