

Top 10 Ideas for Fast-Tracking the Republic

1. Get started straightaway: make the selection process for the Governor-General and Governors more open and transparent from 2008 onwards, preferably with public involvement in the nomination process.
2. Hold preliminary referendum to change s128 of the Constitution to simple majority.
3. Simplify the proposal - the Prime Minister to make announcement in 2008 outlining the Government's parameters for the Republic eg powers of head of state to be codified, number of selection models to be voted on etc and the firm timetable; at present, there are too many variables associated with the Republic and that is confusing people.
4. Keep the proposal clean – don't attach Bill of Rights; other constitutional changes, preambles etc.
5. The federal Government should as soon as possible:
 - a) hold a Summit on the Republic
 - b) set up a Commission, including all political parties in the federal Parliament, to implement the Republic
 - c) fund *information* dissemination through women's and Indigenous networks, and using the internet
 - d) appoint a Minister for the Republic to make it more visible in the Government's priorities
 - e) hold the first of regular Constitutional Conventions in 2009 with elected delegates (at least half of which are women and with adequate Indigenous representation) to make recommendations on constitutional change. This should be screened and broadcast nationally on free-to-air TV and radio
 - f) write to the Queen to say Australia will become a Republic; how we intend to do that, and when (suggested by Women Into Politics Inc)
6. Announce commitment of federal and State funding to prepare for the Republic in 2008-09 Budgets (for early implementation federally in May 2008)
7. Put an agenda item on the next COAG meeting and set timetables for completion of the work that needs to be done on the State constitutions and in State jurisdictions to implement a uniform, national Republic.
8. Allocate federal funding for:
 - (a) Local Government to declare republican cities and towns (suggested by the Republican Clubs of Australia); announce in May 2008

- (b) research our great republican advocates, both female and male, and restore our republican sites; all the national cultural institutions to be funded to do this work (announce federally in May 2008)
9. Involve the whole population by announcing (from COAG) that all Governments support a new design for the flag and a new anthem; run competitions with generous prizes; hold a national vote for the winning design and song shortly after Inauguration Day.
 10. Make the Republic *cool* and get it 'above politics' with multi-partisan approach similar to that used for the Stolen Generation apology (strong leadership and performance needed from the Prime Minister, State Premiers, Chief Ministers and Opposition Leaders); give it a colour and a logo and find a catchy slogan so that republicanism becomes embedded in the national psyche as the only right way to think about the future of our country.

Women for an Australian Republic

www.womenrep.netspeed.com.au

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