



THE AUSTRALIAN CHOICE MODEL

A GENUINE CHOICE FOR AUSTRALIANS



THE AUSTRALIAN CHOICE MODEL WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH.

IT IS GOOD POLICY AND IT'S ACHIEVABLE.

IT'S BEEN CAREFULLY DEVELOPED TO ALIGN WITH THE VIEWS OF AUSTRALIANS, AND WILL STRENGTHEN OUR CONSTITUTION.

HOW IT WORKS



NOMINATION

FEDERAL, STATE AND TERRITORY PARLIAMENTS NOMINATE A SHORTLIST OF CANDIDATES



ELECTION

WE HOLD AN ELECTION TO PICK ONE OF THE CANDIDATES TO BE HEAD OF STATE



SERVICE

THE HEAD OF STATE ACTS ON THE ADVICE OF OUR GOVERNMENT - EXCEPT FOR SOME SPECIAL DUTIES



ACCOUNTABILITY

THE HEAD OF STATE CAN BE REMOVED FOR PROVEN MISBEHAVIOUR OR INCAPACITY

AN OVERVIEW

SINCE 1901, THE ROLE OF 'HEAD OF STATE' IN AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN PERFORMED BY THE BRITISH KING OR QUEEN. IT'S TIME FOR AN AUSTRALIAN, CHOSEN BY AUSTRALIANS INSTEAD.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHOICE MODEL ENSURES THE ROLE OF HEAD OF STATE IS CEREMONIAL IN NATURE, WITH LIMITED POWERS TO SAFEGUARD AND MAINTAIN THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND RESOLVE POLITICAL GRIDLOCK.

NOMINATION

- Each State and Territory Parliament will be able to nominate one candidate for election. The Federal Parliament will be able to nominate up to three.
- Eligible nominees must be an Australian citizen, be eligible to be elected to the House of Representatives, not be a current sitting member of any Australian parliament and not have served more than one term as Head of State.

ELECTION

- A national election will be held to elect one of the nominees for a five-year term. We propose the same voting method that is used for House of Representatives elections be used for the election of the Head of State.
- If only one candidate is nominated (in total) by Australia's parliaments, voters will be empowered to confirm or reject that candidate at a national ballot.

SERVICE

A Head of State must act on the advice of the Prime Minister, Federal Executive Council or Ministers (as the case may be), except when:

- **Appointing the Prime Minister.** They must determine who they believe is most likely to have the support in Parliament to form a Government, and are empowered to dismiss a Prime Minister who no longer has majority support (confidence). The Model prohibits a Head of State from terminating the appointment of a Prime Minister who retains the confidence of the House.
- **Summoning Parliament to determine who has the confidence of the House of Representatives.**
- **Calling an election where the confidence of the House remains indeterminate for more than seven days.**

The Head of State would no longer be able to refuse to give approval (assent) or use their personal discretion to amend proposed laws that have passed the Parliament, or refuse to approve a constitutional change that has been approved by voters at a referendum.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- A Head of State may be removed by a motion passed in both Houses of the Parliament calling for their removal for proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- In the event of the Head of State resigns, is removed or ceases to be eligible to hold office, the most senior State Governor serves as acting Head of State until such time as an election can be held. That the most senior State Governor will also act as Head of State if the Head of State is absent or unavailable.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? WWW.REPUBLIC.ORG.AU/POLICY
