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ESSENTIAL POLL SHOWS REPUBLIC SUPPORT

New polling shows continuing strong support for an Australian republic but future polls should focus more on what model voters would support at any future referendum, says chair of the [Real Republic Australia](#), David Muir.

Mr Muir said the latest research by [Essential Media Communications](#) showed 48% of respondents backed a republic with 28% opposed and 25% unsure.

“The results shows a high level of ongoing support for a republic, a fact our national lawmakers seem to continue to ignore,” he said.

“The poll reveals a strong level of support even in the almost total absence of genuine public debate about a republic and the total absence of political leadership on the issue.”

Mr Muir said by comparison the 1999 republic referendum showed roughly 45% support in its “yes” vote across the nation.

“What’s usually missing from polling on the republic issue is an assessment of what model voters would support.

“I believe that voters will back a directly elected Australian head of state as opposed to a process in which our head of state is picked for them by Canberra – the ‘politician’s republic’ model foisted upon them at the 1999 referendum which was soundly rejected.

“I am confident that even monarchists will back a directly elected head of state once they decide that a shift to a republic is inevitable.

“People want a say in who becomes their head of state and the Real Republic Australia has always maintained a position of supporting such a model.”

Mr Muir said the poll finding that a large proportion of younger Australians, including one-third of women aged 18-35 “don’t know” if they support or oppose a republic could reflect the fact that several generations have been born and grown up since the issue was last on the national agenda at the time of the failed 1999 referendum.

“This is just further evidence of failed political leadership on the republic issue and a misguided focus on an ‘us versus the royals’ discussion in most reporting on the republic issue.

“The fact remains that the republic has little to do with the British royal family, “ he said.

“It is all about Australians and Australia’s future. Even Her Majesty the Queen and other senior royals know and accept that.

“Otherwise they would have nothing to do with the Commonwealth of Nations that has 33 republics among its 54 members.”

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