



SATURDAY 14 APRIL 2018

ASPLEY FORUM ON REPUBLIC ARGUMENTS

A public forum this morning at Aspley will discuss reasons for and against Australia becoming a republic as well as other possible Constitutional changes that could be placed before voters at a referendum.

WHEN: Saturday April 14 2018

TIME: 8 am-10 am

WHERE: Aspley Uniting Church, 748 Robinson Road, Aspley, 4034

The forum will be led by Brisbane lawyer and chair of the Real Republic Australia, David Muir, and advocate for the aged, author, and Uniting Church elder, Everal Compton.

Mr Muir said the Real Republic advocated a republic with a head of state directly elected by Australian voters.

“Australians want real reforms not empty symbolism, and that means a directly elected Australian as our nation’s Head of State, not one chosen for them by politicians,” he said.

“The 1999 referendum that followed the 1998 Constitutional Convention failed because all it offered was a model for politicians picking our head of state, not one directly elected by the people.

“The Real Republic also wants a directly elected Head of State to have a role in appointing and overseeing anti-corruption and integrity bodies at the federal level instead of the current unhealthy practice of politicians appointing the agencies and individuals overseeing their behaviour.”

Mr Muir said a referendum on Australia becoming a republic should also include questions for other Constitutional changes delivering real reforms including:

- recognition of Indigenous Australians,
- changes to the Senate including fewer Senators for each state,
- synchronised elections for the lower and upper houses of Federal Parliament and four-year terms,
- applying to the House of Representatives the casual vacancy system now used by the Senate to cut costs by avoiding by-elections, and
- local government recognition to remove any doubt about the validity of direct federal funding.

“We believe such real reforms will deliver real benefits to Australians and at today’s forum we can tap any other ideas people may put forward,” Mr Muir said.

The Real Republic was founded by delegates to the 1998 Constitutional Convention held in Canberra including:

- the late Dr Clem Jones AO former Lord Mayor of Brisbane,
- Ann Bunnell former Deputy Mayor of Townsville in Queensland,
- Brisbane lawyer David Muir, also chair of the Clem Jones Trust

- Ted Mack former mayor of North Sydney and independent MP in both the NSW and Federal parliaments, and
- Phil Cleary former independent federal MP for the Victorian seat of Wills.

Mr Muir said the Real Republic organisation continued to be supported by the Clem Jones Group.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Lindsay Marshall 0431 101 533



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