

To Open Line, Australian Women's Weekly

For publication

Obviously the young royals are selling (25 page special: Young, royal and hip, September 2012 edition) but we don't agree with the sentiment, "it's never been more hip to fly the flag for the monarchy". Maybe for the British but not for us. We noticed that the article "Why it's hip to be royal" was originally written for a British newspaper and, naturally, a British audience.

Australian women, including ourselves, are always interested in the British royal women as celebrities but we know where to draw the line when it comes to their role in our government and compulsorily having one of them as the Queen of Australia.

Australians can make this distinction and see no need to be enthusiasts for the Queen of Australia at the apex of our national government. We are more than capable of deciding our own Constitutional arrangements free of continuing British influence and the way to select our Head of State by direct election or some other method. The smoothly running system in the Republic of Ireland, where the Governor-General in a former British dominion - just as Australia was - has been replaced by a directly elected head of state, would work very well here.

The Weekly should help its readers to understand and make this decision rather than running an overt campaign to boost a monarchy borrowed from overseas without questioning its relevance for the government and make-up of our country in the 21st century.

Sarah Brasch
National Convenor
Women for an Australian Republic
Canberra

women.republic@webone.com.au
www.womenrep.org

PO Box 3260
Manuka ACT 2603