

Letter to The Canberra Times
7 March 2013

Dear Editor

With no sign of a Royal Succession Bill to at least rid the Australian monarch of sexist inheritance rules that conflict with our anti-discrimination laws, Australia's federated constitutional monarchy is creaking once again.

Queensland declined the Commonwealth's offer to legislate on behalf of the States and put its own bill into State Parliament last month to directly agree the new succession rules for the Queen of Queensland with the UK.

The ease of getting the sixteen countries that have Elizabeth II as their monarch to agree that William's first child will be heir to the throne regardless of gender has been followed by a legal quagmire involving constitutional complexities and uncertainties over changes to several ancient UK laws governing its monarchy.

Australia is bogged down in federal-state squabbling with the clock ticking. Each State having its own monarch and constitution as well as separate relationship with the UK and governor brings us no benefits.

We're behind Canada and New Zealand. Both have already tabled their bills. Although viewed by the lawyers with alarm, Canada took a daringly simple approach that bypassed getting the agreement of its nine provinces.

The best solution would be to free ourselves of the British monarchy and the mess it bequeathed us. Time for a reconstituted republic with a civilian head.

Sarah Brasch
Women for an Australian Republic
Weston