

Letter to Sydney Morning Herald

17 May 2013

Dear Editor

It's about maturity, not starting a revolution.

Confusion seems to prevail among those who believe that the act of transforming Australia into a republic is a "revolutionist" ploy to eradicate past ties with the British and to "demolish" the constitution.

Some republican countries are still part of the Commonwealth and can freely select their own head of state, not - as in Australia's case - a head of state who is a citizen of another country.

Our nation, on a political level, has bipartisan support on the issue of becoming a republic, and most division that does exist among the public is a result of misunderstanding.

Becoming a republic is not a matter of forgetting the past, but of believing in Australia enough to allow it to stand on its own feet.

At grassroots level, through the involvement of the younger generation, we can make this important issue once again a leading topic of public debate.

Becoming a republic is not simply based on a matter of principle relating to whether we should swear allegiance to the Queen.

Essentially it is about whether we can accept that Australia and Britain, are in fact, two very different countries situated on opposite sides of the world.

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