

# MEDIA RELEASE

## REPUBLICAN GROUPS FORM UNITED COALITION

### “COALITION OF AUSTRALIAN REPUBLICANS”

**30 – 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2009**

A meeting of republican groups in Melbourne on 30 – 31 May decided that they should unite in an active coalition to urge the Government to conduct a national plebiscite to give the Australian people a say in the future republic of Australia. This is an historic first and unites previously opposed groups under the name “Coalition of Australian Republicans” (CAR) with a common commitment to the sovereignty of the Australian people.

It shows the determination of the broader republican movement to unite to give support to the Australian people’s determination to be central to any change to their Constitution.

The Rudd’s Government’s lack of response to the overwhelming support for the republic at the 2020 Summit held in 2008 is a denial of the Australian people’s desire to have one of its own citizens as Head of State and play a part in choosing that Head of State.

*The Coalition of Australian Republicans calls on the Rudd Government to stop being timid on the republic and put the republic at the centre of nation building initiatives to drive the recovery from the global recession.*

The Coalition of Australian Republicans agreed on the following principles:

1. The Australian people must own the process leading to a republic – including the selection of the republican model to be put to the required referendum .
2. One or more non-binding plebiscites should be part of the process of moving towards the final referendum.
3. We should not wait until the death or abdication of the Queen but should determine our own timetable to discuss our own future
4. Our elected representatives, whether state or federal, should swear allegiance to Australia and her people - not the British crown.

Background: The Republican Gathering in Melbourne on 30-31 May was convened by Women for an Australian Republic and included the Australian Republican Movement, Real Republic Limited, the Copernican Republicans, the Foundation for Constitutional Renewal, Patriots for the Australian Republic, Republic Now! and the Republican Party of Australia.

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Melbourne 1 June 2009