



21

## PRIME MINISTER

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### REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN IN QUEENSLAND

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, and the Queensland President of the National Party, Mr Sparkes, today made a combined appeal to Queenslanders to vote 'yes' for all four referendums on Saturday.

In a special joint message to Queensland electors, the Party leaders urged voters to take this opportunity to reform the Federal Constitution.

They said that the electors of Queensland should ignore propaganda tactics which were designed to hide the fact that the referendum proposals are simple and straightforward.

There are four fair, just and reasonable proposals to be voted on. They will strengthen the Senate, safeguard the States and make the Constitution work better.

The referendum proposals emerged from the 1976 Hobart Constitutional Convention which was instigated by the States and dominated by the States. There were 92 delegates at the Convention - 72 from the States, 16 percent, 40 from the Federal Government and four from local government.

The Constitutional Convention overwhelmingly supported the principles behind all four proposals.

The four proposals on which Queenslanders and all other Australians will be asked to vote for on Saturday are:

1. That elections for the House of Representatives and the Senate should be held at the same time.

This is a matter of simple common sense. Unless this proposal is passed, there could be as many as four Federal elections in the next four years. The country does not want or need this. A 'yes' answer will strengthen the Senate and protect Queensland.

2. That if a Senator dies or resigns he will be replaced for the remainder of his term of office by a member of the same Party. A 'yes' vote on this proposal will ensure that the voter choice at the election will be preserved. This is basic to our democracy.
3. That electors in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory should be able to vote in referendums as

do all other Australians.

A 'yes' vote will give Territorial voters the same fundamental rights as their fellow Australians.

4. That High Court Judges should retire at the age of 70 and that a retiring age should be set for other Federal judges.

The Queensland Government has set a retirement age of 70 for their State judges, and it is only fair that at the age of 70 judges in the Federal arena should pass the job on to younger people.

The Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Queensland President of the National Party hope that Queenslanders will maintain their progressive record with respect to Constitutional reforms and vote 'yes' on all four proposals.

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