



PRIME MINISTER

54/93

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP
REPUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

I was very disappointed today to learn of Dr Hewson's decision not to nominate a member of the republic advisory committee.

I believe it demonstrates a lack of understanding on Dr Hewson's part of the weight of the issue and the approach of the Government.

However, I note Dr Hewson's obvious dissatisfaction with the Liberal Party's outdated platform, and I hope he succeeds in bringing it more into line with community attitudes at the party's federal council meeting in August.

The work of the republic advisory committee must proceed, notwithstanding the absence of a nominee from Dr Hewson, but the door remains open should Dr Hewson change his mind.

**CANBERRA
29 April, 1993**

REPUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Announced by the Prime Minister, the Hon P J Keating MP
April 28 1993**

MALCOLM TURNBULL	:	Chairman
MR NICK GREINER	:	Former NSW Liberal Premier
MS MARY KOSTAKIDIS	:	Media Presenter, SBS TV, member of Constitutional Centenary Foundation
MS LOIS O'DONOGHUE	:	Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
MS SUSAN RYAN	:	Former ALP Senator and Minister for Education, currently chief executive Plastics Industry Association
DR JOHN HIRST	:	Reader in History, LaTrobe University, Convenor of Australian Republican Movement, Victoria
PROF GEORGE WINTERTON	:	Professor of Law, University of NSW

Leader of the Opposition to nominate one representative.

State Premiers and Chief Ministers to nominate two representatives.

REPUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The current purpose is to obtain an options paper which describes the minimum constitutional changes necessary to achieve a viable Federal Republic of Australia, maintaining the effect of our current conventions and principles of government. There is no intention that the Committee should examine any options which would otherwise change our structure of government, including the relationship between the Commonwealth and the States. Even with this limited purpose, however, it will be necessary to examine a variety of practical possibilities and consult widely with the community.

The Committee should describe and analyse the possibilities and the main arguments for and against them, but should not make recommendations as such. The Committee's final report should be available to the Prime Minister by 1 September 1993.

In light of the above, the report should address the following matters:

1. The removal of all references to the monarch in the Constitution.
2. In light of this, the need for and creation of a new office of Head of State and consideration of what the office might be called.
3. The provisions for the appointment and termination of appointment of the Head of State including the method of selection and appointment eg
 - selection and appointment by the government of the day
 - selection by the government and endorsement by both Houses of Parliament
 - appointment by an "electoral college" comprising representatives of various parliaments
 - appointment following election by the Federal Parliament
 - popular election
4. How the powers of the new Head of State and their exercise can be made subject to the same conventions and principles which apply to the powers of the Governor-General.
5. The nature of the amendments to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act required to implement the options.
6. The implications for the States.
7. Other aspects which arise in the Committee's deliberations and consultations providing they are relevant to the overall objective in the opening paragraph above.