

# It's a great time to be an Australian republican

By *Glenn Davies*

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***The sunlight of Australian independence is appearing over the horizon, writes history editor [Dr Glenn Davies](#).***



IN HIS [National Press Club speech](#) this week, the recently appointed national chair of the Australian Republican Movement [Peter FitzSimons](#) announced that Federal Liberal Treasurer [Joe Hockey](#) and ACT Labor Senator former ACT chief minister [Katy Gallagher](#) would be co-leading a Federal Parliamentary friendship group focussed on an Australian republic.

The reason that support bridges the ideological divide is because the idea of a republic appeals to quintessentially Australian values. As a nation that prides itself on its egalitarianism, it is wrong that our head of state continues to be the monarch of a foreign country. For a proudly multicultural people, it makes no sense to cling to our remaining colonial ties after more than a century of independence.

As one of our [foremost writers](#) of Australian history, Peter has captured some of the pivotal moments that have shaped our national identity.

Upon his appointment to head up the Movement, he is reported as [saying](#):

*"I think most Australians agree that there is a fundamental injustice at the heart of our system when a young boy or girl growing up in this great country can aspire to just about any job except the one that should be the most representative of all – head of state."*

It appears he will now be employing his considerable talents to making history as well as recording it.

Peter FitzSimons' speech on an Australian republic at the National Press Club <http://t.co/Nswuxh3LrX> via @smh

— Dave Donovan (@davrosz) [August 29, 2015](#)

During his [National Press Club speech](#), Peter FitzSimons stated

The reaction to the [knighting of Prince Philip](#) really brought us together, and demonstrates that the Australian people are not so ignorant as some runs in this country. In the 21st Century it is ludicrous that we still have a system where Federal Australia and Opposition leader Bill Shorten must signal a [statute of independence](#) because they are not born into a British republic. We must call it what it is — not right, and simply not fair.

But regardless of who wins the He said it was "hard to tell, but likely" that Tony Abbott's [schedules](#) today monarch Abbott is likely to be

Australia's last monarchist for a while. So much on his mind, ' why did he spend, which he was looking for a better Australia's [final step toward independence](#) is on the horizon.

— The Daily Rupert (@TheMurchTimes) [August 27, 2015](#)

**History editor [Dr Glenn Davies](#) is Queensland branch convenor of the [Australian Republican Movement](#).**



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