

# TALKING ABOUT THE REPUBLIC

Every day we are getting closer to having an Australian as head of state. **But we need republic supporters like yourself to help build the momentum.**

To achieve a republic, we will have to reach out to Australians across the country. And the best way to convince people to support a republic is by having real-life conversations.

The conversations you have with friends, family and coworkers will be more influential than any advertisement or official message. **Conversations can change minds.**

**That's why republic supporters have kicked off a national conversation.** You can turn an undecided person into a supporter, a supporter into a volunteer, a volunteer into a leader for change.

**Polling shows most people want Australia to finally become a republic.**

Only a small group strongly support keeping the Queen as our head of state. And our conversations will be the key to winning over those people who are currently undecided.

By sharing our stories on why we support a republic we have a better chance of bringing more people on board.

**When we show how much support exists in the community, it will be impossible for our leaders to ignore us.**

We hope this guide is helpful! For more info please go to:  
**[www.republic.org.au/resources](http://www.republic.org.au/resources)**

	Question	Background
<b>Introduce the republic</b>	Do you think we should have an Australian as head of state?	<p>Start off with a question to get them thinking.</p> <p>Be ready to give some more information if they haven't really thought about it before.</p>
<b>If they are supportive</b>	<p>Why do you think it's important?</p> <p>How long have you felt that way?</p>	<p>Give them a chance to think about why they support Australia becoming a republic.</p> <p>Get ready to ask them if they want to get involved in the campaign.</p>
<b>If they sound unsure</b>	<p>There are lots of reasons why Australia should become a republic</p> <p>For me, it's about...</p>	<p>Some people might be supportive but just haven't thought about it. Others might be interested but have a few questions before being openly supportive.</p> <p>You can help by listening and sharing why having an Australian as head of state is important to you.</p>
<b>If they are against the idea</b>	Why are you against having an Australian as head of state?	<p>If their mind is completely made up the best thing you can do is thank them and move on. Try to address their concerns but don't take it personally.</p> <p>Remember it's more important to focus your attention on someone who is undecided.</p>
<b>Don't forget to ask them to sign up!</b>	Could I get your details to keep you updated?	<p><u>This is really important</u> - if someone supports the republic then we need to be able to get in touch with them.</p> <p>Signup forms are available at <a href="http://www.republic.org.au/resources">www.republic.org.au/resources</a></p>

FAQ	Response	You can ask
<b>What's a republic?</b>	A republic means having a head of state who's an Australian citizen, instead of the Queen of England. Becoming a republic means we'll be fully independent, and have a ceremonial head of state who can represent what it means to be an Australian.	Should Australia have an Australian as head of state?
<b>Why should Australia be a republic?</b> <b>Why now?</b>	<p>Australia should have an Australian head of state, someone who lives here and is proud to be an Australian.</p> <p>Becoming a republic is about national pride and, in a country that believes in a fair go, the opportunity for our head of state to be one of us.</p> <p>Australia is more than ready to stand on its own two feet - it's time we declared we are confident and in control of our future.</p>	If we were setting up Australia today, would we really pick the leader of another country for the top job?
<b>What are the benefits?</b>	<p>1) A head of state that will always put Australia first</p> <p>2) A head of state that lives here and represents our values</p> <p>3) The opportunity to actually choose who our head of state is</p> <p>4) The Constitution will be 100% independent</p> <p>5) Aussie kids can aspire to the top job</p>	Shouldn't we be able to have a say on who our head of state is?
<b>How do we become a republic?</b>	<p>To become a republic, we have to win a national referendum vote. To build enough support to win, our grassroots campaign is working towards a national vote in 2020 on the questions:</p> <p>1) 'Should Australia have an Australian as head of state?'</p> <p>2) 'How should we choose our head of state?'</p>	Would you like to sign up and show your support for the republic?

Objection	Response	You can ask
<b>If it ain't broke, don't fix it</b>	The system is broke as long as an Aussie citizen is being denied the top job, and we have to share our head of state with lots of other countries. And even if the system looks fine, we should always be looking to upgrade to a better, 100% Aussie system.	Are you really satisfied with the political system at the moment?
<b>We can't afford it</b>  <b>Sounds expensive...</b>	We won't be given a republic for free, but the government can afford it - just like we have money set aside to have elections, or keep the government running.  The Royal Family don't come free either: we'll have to change all our money and symbols when Charles becomes King of Australia, and continue paying for royal visits.	Would you rather spend money maintaining the Royal Family? Or standing up for Australia instead?
<b>There are more important things right now</b>	Of course there will always be more urgent day-to-day issues – no one's saying a republic should be our only priority. But that doesn't take away from possibility of having our own head of state, and it shouldn't stop us from trying to make the system work better for us.	Can't we deal with more than one thing at a time?
<b>But I like the Queen</b>	You can support a republic and still respect the Queen. This is about Australia, and a decision to we need to make for ourselves. It's not about them – it's about us.	What do the Royal Family actually do for Australia?
<b>What about the Commonwealth?</b>	Most nations in the Commonwealth have already stepped up to become republics. We will still be part of the Commonwealth Games and keep our close friendships with other nations, but we will be respected and recognised as being fully independent.	Do you think Australia is good enough to run our own show?