



Australian
National
University

Constitutional Change and Australian Republicanism

Friday 16 September 2011 1.00 – 2.00pm

Friday Lunchtime Seminar Series

Glenn Patmore Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Melbourne

Phillipa Weeks Staff Library ANU College of Law (Bldg 5) Fellows Road,
The Australian National University



Under section 128 of the Australian Constitution federal parliamentarians have the responsibility for initiating constitutional amendments. Yet there exists an absence of attention in the constitutional literature to the motivations of leaders to initiate constitutional amendments. This paper examines the motivation of politicians to propose and support a constitutional amendment to introduce an Australian republic. Three motivations are examined: the desire to succeed in passing a referendum and for re-election, the desire to promote a new national identity, and timeliness. The paper seeks to understand such motivations

by an in-depth analysis of interviews with political leaders involved with the 1999 republican referendum and subsequent proposals.

Glenn Patmore works as a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Melbourne. One of his particular areas of interest is Australian republicanism, and he has written several Law Review articles and book chapters on this topic. Most recently he published his book, *Choosing the Republic* (UNSW Press 2009). He has given several invited lectures at a number of international universities. In addition, his writings have been published in Australian and international law journals. He has taught Constitutional Law, Principles of Public Law and an optional course on Australian democracy with a particular focus on the intersections of history, politics and the law.

The views expressed in this seminar are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.

Presented by

Centre for
International
& Public Law
ANU College of
Law

RSVP

By Wednesday 14 September
E rsvp@law.anu.edu.au T 02 6125 0454
This seminar is free and open to the public
ANU Public Lecture Series information:
anu.edu.au/publiclectures
CRICOS# 00120C

PUBLIC SEMINAR