

Tania Jackman

No 117

RECEIVED
30 AUG 2004
LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMITTEE

From: Webmaster
Sent: Friday, 27 August 2004 8:26 PM
To: LCARC
Subject: Responses to LCARC Feedback Form

FULL_NAME: Brendon Wesley Dunn
EMAIL_ADDRESS:
:

DESIRABILITY:

A preamble is not a necessary addition to our Constitution.

THE_QCRCS_DRAFT_PREAMBLE:

No. The first half of the draft preamble essentially says nothing of substance. And the second half contains statements that represent a particular political slant. The constitution should not be used to make political statements.

THE_NATURE_OF_A_PREAMBLE:

While there is nothing wrong with having some sort of introductory statement to our Constitution, I see it as unnecessary because the text within the Constitution is adequately representative of the things which are proposed in your draft. If there was a preamble, it should be general in nature, rather than focus on particular racial groups (aboriginals) or gender (women's rights). Certainly any preamble should state that the preamble is not to be used to interpret the rest of the Constitution.

Origins_or_history_of_the_Constitution:

Yes, it is important for Australians to be aware of where we have come from as well as where we are going.

Sovereignty_of_the_people:

No, this is unnecessary.

God:

Yes. The freedoms and prosperity we enjoy in our state have been forged by men and women with strong faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ. The federal constitution's reference to Almighty God would be a good example to follow. It has been suggested that a "generic god" be referred to in the preamble as it would be "more unifying". However, I think the opposite would result, seeing that those of the various religions realise that we do worship different 'gods', and a 'generic god' is representative of no-one. This nation was founded upon Christian principles as found in the Holy Bible, and the preamble should recognise this by a specific reference to the God of Christianity.

Recognition_of_Indigenous_peoples:

Though certain people have good intentions in suggesting we single out a particular race for praise, this move would be dreadfully divisive. Australians should be Australians, regardless of skin colour or heritage.

Cultural_Diversity:

Rather than recognising diversity, why not recognise unity under one law and one flag? Surely this is more unifying.

The_rule_of_law:

Yes, this is a good suggestion. However, it is not entirely accurate. For example, certain laws and privileges apply to Indigenous Australians, that do not apply to non-Indigenous Australians and vice versa. Rule of law would be a wonderful thing, but it

is not in full effect in Australia.

Equality_before_the_law:

No.

Gender_equality:

This is another unnecessary suggestion and seems to reflect a particular slant of sociological thought.

The_status_of_the_Constitution:

No.

System_of_Government:

A brief reference to our system of government would be acceptable.

The_environment:

An issue such as the environment which provokes many and varied opinions, and often strong ones, is a sensitive issue in which to create a statement that all Queenslanders would be in agreement with. I think it is better left alone.

Other_elements:

DEVELOPING THE TEXT OF A PREAMBLE:

The general public should be allowed to devise their own efforts at wording the elements of the preamble, then submitted to the Committee for judging. There needs to be much greater community awareness and consultation on this issue. I only found out about this issue last week, and most people I know had no idea that there was a discussion about a preamble for the Constitution.

ADOPTING A PREAMBLE:

Most definitely, such a vital issue as adding to our Constitution must be put before the people for referendum. An interim preamble is definitely not to be inserted. If the people say yes at a referendum, then add the preamble, if they say no, then leave it alone. Only after a proper consultation process has taken place should a referendum be held, and this could take well over a year.

ADDRESS:

[Redacted]