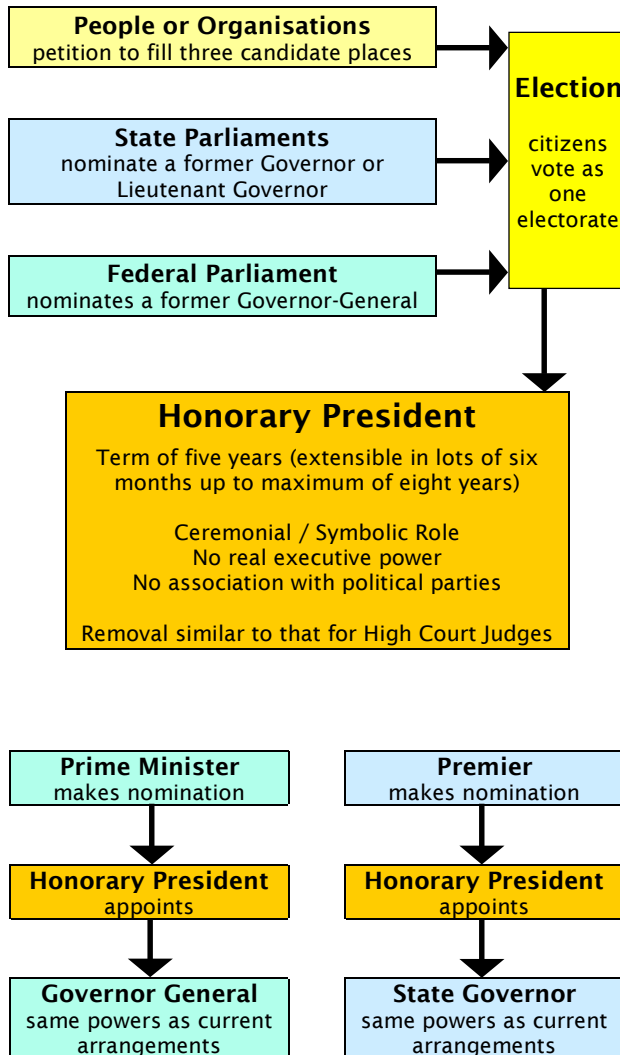


Honorary President Republican Model

Directly-elected and independent Head of State appoints Governor-General and State Governors



Comments

In this model, the role of the Queen is replaced with an Honorary President, who is elected by all citizens. The Governor General is nominated by the Prime Minister and appointed by the Honorary President. State Governors are nominated by Premiers and also appointed by the Honorary President.

The constitution explicitly codifies and limits all powers that may be exercised by the Honorary President. The office would be established as an independent institution and would fulfil a symbolic and ceremonial role in Australian society.

Nomination

Nominations for the office could be made by public petition with the three most supported candidates appearing on the ballot. Each of the six state parliaments could make one nomination of a former Governor or Lieutenant Governor of their state. The Federal Parliament could make an addition nomination of a former Governor-General. There would be no more than ten candidates in the election.

Eligibility

All Australian citizens, eligible to sit in Parliament, would be eligible for nomination, provided

- they held no other office in the Parliament or Executive Government
- they have, or in recent years have had no association with a political party

Tenure

Five years extensible in lots of six months for co-ordination with general elections.

Removal

Similar to procedure for removal of a High Court Judge, with a majority of parliamentarians supporting removal in a joint session, for reasons of proved misbehaviour, incapacity, improper exercise of powers, foreign citizenship or activity in a political party.

Casual Vacancy

To be filled by Honorary Vice President, the candidate who came second (or third) in the previous election.

Non-Reserve Powers

Appointment and delegation of powers to the Governor-General and State Governors would continue to exercise all powers as per existing arrangements.

Reserve Powers

The Governor-Generals reserve powers would continue as per Westminster conventions. If the Prime Minister nominated a replacement Governor-General during a constitutional crisis, the Honorary President could delay making the appointment.



The Honorary President is directly elected

Neither the Honorary President or Governor General becomes a rival source of political authority to the Prime Minister.

Little effect on our Parliamentary democracy

Minimal constitutional change - just the 20 sections that refer to the Queen

Maintains our Unified Federal System

Transitory issues are small and manageable

Any citizen can participate by petition in the nomination of candidates for the election

Former Governors and Governors-General, with vital *on-the-job* experience, make seven of the ten candidates in the election

Dismissal procedures are fair

Structure of election lowers costs to taxpayer and limits influence of political parties



Why elect the Honorary President when they have such limited powers?