

AC Paper no. 14



82%

DID YOU KNOW THAT *82% OF AUSTRALIANS KNOW LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT OUR PRESENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT?

* The Australian Government's 1994 Civics Expert Group found that "**Only 18% of people know something about the content of our Constitution**" – i.e. **82% DON'T!**

The national importance of its report is reflected in the fact that it is held by 83 of Australia's leading libraries. These include those of the High Court of Australia and Australia's leading universities. Go to < <http://www.nla.gov.au> > (National Library of Australia) to learn which library is nearest you. It is not on the net.

That being so – how can the electorate EVER know whether an Australian republican system (should one be presented) be better or worse than our present system?

It is only by Civics Education that an informed vote is possible.

ACM has launched its Civics Education website: <http://www.crownedrepublic.com.au>

It seems to be the only one offering such information. AC asks "Are there others?" If so, AC seeks their contacts.

ACM's Civics Education project will:

- Explain to the 82% how our system of government works, and
- Explain why it is one of, if not the, best (see UN Nov. 2011 HDI report – AC Paper No. 5.)

* Some suggest that because this was 15 years ago, 82% may no longer be the figure. However, others believe that, due to increased immigration from non-English-speaking countries; the lack of any crises or terrorism; the traditional laid-back attitude of many Australians, the figure is more likely now to be **higher** than 82%.

"Most Australians know virtually nothing about their Constitution."

- Leading Republican Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, in p249 of *Fighting for the Republic* (Hardie Grant Books, 1999.)