

A Proposal for a Federal CIR / Recall Mechanism for Australia -

Provided fundamental rights and responsibilities are respected and protected – via a Bill of Rights & Responsibilities - we propose using this Citizen Initiated mechanism to enable a referendum or recall:

STEP 1

Community wants a new law or to remove or change an existing law. 400 electors sign the petition.

STEP 2

Community selects Petition Committee (12 or more electors) to guide the whole process.

STEP 3

Electoral Commissioner registers the petition.

STEP 4

Community petition representatives obtain signatures (0.7% of electors in a majority of Federal electorates and in a majority of States). This must be completed within 12 months.

STEP 5

Local electoral officials collect and count petition signatures.

STEP 6

Electoral Commissioner certifies at least 0.7% of electors (in a majority of electorates and in a majority of States) have signed the petition.

STEP 7

Parliamentary Counsel's office prepares proposed law.

STEP 8 – Random selection of signatories / politicians / citizens – say 20 of each. These people then participate in a Deliberative process to review and progress the proposal

STEP 9

Proposed law is "tabled" in parliament for debate and/or legislation.

STEP 10

(If necessary) Community at referendum votes to accept or reject proposed law (majority of voters in a majority of electorates in majority of States).

STEP 11

Proposed law becomes law on Governor's Assent. Community gets the law they want. Democracy is served.

Note 1: To initiate Constitutional change or Recall an elected Government the figures above need to be doubled ie Step 1 – requires 800 signatures; Steps 4 & 6 – require 1.4% of certified electors to sign petition. These changes may require referendums to be held between elections.

Note 2: Legislative or Constitutional changes which interfere with the fundamental rights and responsibilities of citizens are not able to be initiated.

Note 3: A good education in the mechanics of government and Democracy is essential for all citizens.

Note 4: Parliament can act after a petition is presented to satisfy the petitioner's demands prior to the referendum being held.

Note 5: Whenever possible an initiated referendum will be held in conjunction with the next Federal or State Election.

Note 6: It would be desirable to extend this model to all other elected State and Local bodies once it has proven its worth at the Federal level.