



Statement of Support for Constitutional Recognition and an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

On October 14, 2023 Australia will decide whether to recognise First Nations in the Constitution through a Voice to Parliament. After reflecting on our organisational values, and how they sit alongside our work to encourage active participation by the whole community in the process of democracy and to strive for the highest standards of political representation for our community, Voices for Mallee supports writing “Yes” in this Referendum.

“Australia is home to the oldest continuous culture on earth. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been caring for Country for millennia.

We stand together with a growing movement of people across Australia promoting the Community Independent model of representation. We advocate for all citizens of voting age make an informed vote by reading the Uluru Statement from the Heart and researching widely.

By writing Yes, we support a pathway for meaningful transformative change. This referendum calls upon us to reflect upon our colonial history and envision a future where First Nations justice, truth telling and Treaty help us move toward a brighter future together.

By writing “Yes” in the Referendum, Australian’s everywhere can establish a permanent representative body that boldly advocates for the needs and aspirations of First Nations people.

Recognising and respecting the knowledge, cultures, stories and languages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will help us move forward from our past and progress together toward a brighter future.

Our support for writing “Yes” is based on the fundamental principle that laws and policies are more effective when those who are affected by them have a voice.

We firmly believe in demanding substantive change rather than mere symbolism, and we view this Referendum as a meaningful step in the right direction.

We respect the range of opinions among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, organisations and communities, and have reached this position after careful consideration.

We encourage our members and community to listen with an open heart and mind through this historic moment.”

We are providing some references for your own research and context:

<https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/>

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/what-is-a-voice-to-parliament-jack-latimore-explains-20230122-p5ceiv.html>

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2023/july/patrick-dodson/firelight-stick-hill>

<https://antar.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/History-of-Constitutional-Recognition-Factsheet-1.pdf>

<https://7ampodcast.com.au/episodes/why-the-voice-cant-be-the-only-answer>