

Aboriginal leaders' declaration of support for a "Yes" vote

An overwhelming majority of the Aboriginal Community want to see an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice enshrined in Australia's Constitution. A Voice will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all corners of the continent real standing in this country. The country we have fought for in world wars, the country we have won Olympic medals for. Hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gathered at Uluru, after a dozen consultation conventions, to call for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

This Voice would be chosen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and advise parliament on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. This Voice is our chance to choose who represents us, rather than people handpicked by government. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice will make a real, meaningful difference to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. A Voice will bring forward 60,000 years of wisdom to inform our future.

The Voice will champion ancient Aboriginal culture and ways of knowing, being, and doing to drive policy that supports thriving Communities. In providing a platform to speak directly to the Australian Government, the Voice can empower Aboriginal Communities to create better health and wellbeing for our people. The Voice will unite Australia as a nation. A Voice will tell the world that as a nation we are unique, we have the oldest culture in the world, we are proud of it, and all of Australia feel a part of who we are.

In the 1967 Referendum Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were counted – on October 14 a successful referendum will empower our Communities to be heard.

We vote 'Yes'.



Aboriginal Signatories of the Declaration

Andrew Jackomos

Former Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Commission for Aboriginal Children and Young People

Antoinette Braybrook

CEO, Djirra

Ash Francisco

Lecturer, Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership, Melbourne University

Brian Bero

Deputy Chairperson, Ilbijerri Theatre Company

Colleen Kelly

Chairperson, First People's Health and Wellbeing

Deb Mellett

General Manager, Nairm Marr Djambana

Denni Francisco

Chairperson, Kinaway Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Vicki Couzens

Chairperson, Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages

Esme Bamblett

Chief Executive, Aboriginal Advancement League Elders Voice Co-Convenor, First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria

Gina Bundle

Program Coordinator, Royal Women's Hospital

Grant Hansen

Presenter, Marngrook Radio

Ian Hamm

Board Member AICD, First Nations Foundation, The Healing Foundation

Illana Atkinson

Acting Chief Executive, Kinaway Chamber of Commerce

Jamie Williamson

Owner, Dawaray Business Services

Jason Kanoa

Acting Chief Executive, Wauthaurong Aboriginal Cooperative (signed post-date)



Janine Coombs

Uluru Delegate and Signatory, Director Barengi Gadjin Land Council

Jenny Ockwell

Chief Executive, Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative Ltd

Jill Gallagher AO

Chief Executive, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Jimi Peters

Oxfam

Joel Bray

Joel Bray Dance

Karen Heap

Chief Executive, Ballarat Aboriginal and District Cooperartive

Karen Milward

Chairperson, Kinaway Chamber of Commerce

Karinda Taylor

Chief Executive, First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing

Kate Brocker

Executive Officer, First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing

Laura Thompson

CEO, Clothing the Gaps

Leanne Brooke

Executive General Manager - Community, Indigenous Affairs & The Long Walk, Essendon Football Club (signed post-date)

Levi Power

Member, First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria

Lorraine Parsons

Board Director, First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing

Mandy Nicholson

Founder, Djirri Djirri - Wurundjeri women's dance group

Marcus Stewart

Former co-Chairperson, First Peoples of Assembly

Mick Harding

Director, Ngarga Warendj

Muriel Bamblett

Chief Executive, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Natasha Carter

Marketing and Admin Coordinator, Ilbijerri Theatre Company



Nerita Waight

Chief Executive, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Nicole Harding

Director, Ngarga Warendj

Paul Paton

Chief Executive, Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations

Paul Stewart

Deputy Chief Executive, Lowitja Institute

Rachael Maza

Chief Executive, Ilbijerri Theatre Company

Robbie Bundle

Chief Executive, Songlines Aboriginal Music

Rodney Carter

Chief Executive, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Elders Voice Co-Convenor, First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria

Rueben Berg

Co-chairperson, First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria

Sheree Lowe

Executive Director, VACCHO Member, First Peoples' Assembly

Sherry Balcombe

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

Troy McDonald

Reserved Seat Holder, First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Chairperson, Gunnai Kurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation

Vicki Clarke

Director, Yingadi Aboriginal Corporation (signed post-date)



