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CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**

Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Chair

Senator the Hon Nova Peris OAM, Deputy Chair

[cc The Hon Rowan Ramsey MP, Member for Grey, SA]

To the respected members of the Committee

A referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's Constitution presents us all with a unique and historic opportunity to set things right in our nations founding document. This is a both a great generational privilege and moment that AnglicareSA encourages all Australian's to embrace.

In February, 2013 South Australia rightfully amended our State Constitution to recognise Aboriginal people as South Australia's first peoples. Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in Australia's Constitution is the next important step.

With the unanimous support of our governing body, the Synod, AnglicareSA has been actively engaged in the people's movement for Constitutional Recognition.

AnglicareSA has co-hosted many conversations and public events to enhance public awareness and build on the momentum for a Referendum. We participated in the *Journey to Recognition* as it wound its way from Victoria, through South Australia and to our nation's heartland Ulluru. Along this journey, and through our many continuing conversations in community, the message from the people is loud and clear - 'let's fix this now'.

AnglicareSA endorses and supports the recommendations set out in the Expert Panel Report. Furthermore, if the Government decides to put to referendum a proposal for Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples other than the proposals recommended by the Panel, it should consult further with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their representative organisations to ascertain their views in relation to any such alternative proposal.

The momentum for a Referendum is strong and should be acted on sooner, rather than later. The suggestion to hold the Referendum in 2016 at the next Federal election or shortly after has our support.

Rev'd Peter Sandeman  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

