
From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 9 April 2023 7:06 AM

To: [REDACTED]
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Subject: I urge you to support constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament

Dear Members of the Senate and associates,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and a voter in McEwan electorate, on the land of **Wurundjeri Land**, to express my support for constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This is an issue that is incredibly important to me and to our broader community. I believe that Australia has a proud history of supporting and elevating Indigenous Australian voices and developing policies to help see genuine change and better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, despite the best intentions of multiple Governments and political parties, we are not seeing meaningful improvement on the metrics that count – like health, life expectancy, education, and community safety. It is clear that continuing with the status quo will not work.

I urge you to support constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament. I am particularly concerned about the Liberal Party's recent decision not to provide a totally free vote for their MPs. Despite this, I know that this is our opportunity to make a positive impact now and for future generations.

We have over 65,000 years of continuous Indigenous culture, and it is time our now 122 years old constitution was updated to recognize the people that were here first. Legal experts, including former High Court judges, have confirmed that a Voice to Parliament is a legally safe way to constitutionally recognize Indigenous Australians.

Furthermore, about 80% of Indigenous Australians support constitutional recognition in the form of a Voice to Parliament. Constitutional recognition through a Voice is a simple proposal whose time has come.

The proposed referendum question is, "To alter the Constitution to recognize the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?"

The proposed constitutional amendment is as follows:

Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia: There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice; The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers, and procedures.

I believe that this is a once in a generation opportunity to make a positive change for our Indigenous Australian community. I urge you to support this proposal, and I want you to know that your local community has a huge amount of goodwill for this proposition, and we are ready to support you in this endeavor.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

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