



Australasian Injury Prevention Network Supports a Voice to Parliament

The Australasian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN) wholeheartedly supports the YES vote and the establishment of Voice to Parliament at the upcoming referendum on constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The AIPN is an independent, non-government network representing all-age, all-cause injury prevention and safety promotion in the Australasian region. We strive to promote knowledge of the causes of injury and safety promotion to minimise injury-related harm and reduce inequities throughout Australia and New Zealand. Of utmost importance to our network is the recognition, respect for and integration of Indigenous knowledges in the work we do.

The Voice proposal aims to establish a body known as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. The Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Australian Government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This includes advocating for the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within Australia's democratic framework. The AIPN recognises that this proposal will not disrupt the fundamental institutions of our government system. Instead, a Voice would contribute to enhancing our democracy and build a stronger nation for us all.

We know that to truly address inequities we must acknowledge and prioritise the broad underlying social and cultural determinants that impact upon health and wellbeing which the Voice to Parliament will directly address. The AIPN believes that the establishment of a Voice will contribute to rectifying inequities in areas such as health, education, housing, injustices within the legal system, and policies related to preserving and nurturing Country (lands and waters). A Voice will actively contribute to rectifying social and economic imbalances and disparities and offer a source of enrichment for the future well-being of all individuals.

AIPN also commits to publicly supporting the Voice process and the wider Uluru Statement from the Heart, including its vision as a whole to recognise Truth and Treaty.

As an organisation we are working hard to ensure recognition of First Nations peoples and cultures in our work, especially in the lead up to the [15th Australasian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference](#) with the theme: ***Weaving knowledges for injury prevention and safety promotion; creating a new way together.*** We invite you to join us at this conference and on this journey to create a new way in how we consider and approach injury prevention and safety promotion together. Supporting the YES vote will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to have a voice in self-determining priorities for their own future. We urge the AIPN community to write **YES** on your ballot paper on October 14th.

Debbie Scott, AIPN President & AIPN Indigenous Sub-Committee