

Statement on The Voice to Parliament – Commonwealth Government Referendum

The Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia welcomes the gracious invitation from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and the call of Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Masig Statement.

We welcome the conversation regarding the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution, and recognise the opportunity that it brings for all Australians to contribute to this matter of national importance.

We recognise this deliberation is an essential step in reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We recognise that the intention of constitutional recognition through enshrining a voice to Parliament is to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to create a better future for their communities.

We prayerfully commit to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to having their voices heard in the life of our nation.

We are grateful for the work of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council in the life of our church and we commit ourselves to listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices.

We urge all Australians to give generous consideration to the case to vote 'Yes' in the upcoming referendum concerning constitutional recognition, and encourage Anglicans to engage with resources prepared by the ACA, including those prepared by the Anglican Board of Mission, as they determine their response.

We encourage parish ministers and leaders of agencies to facilitate conversation and education about the referendum question and process.

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