



Anglican Church of Australia

General Synod

MEMORANDUM

To: Diocesan Bishops
cc: Diocesan Registrars
Subject: **The Voice to Parliament**
Standing Committee Resolutions 28-29 April 2023
Date: 8 June 2023

At its 28-29 April 2023 meeting the General Synod Standing Committee made the following resolution regarding the Voice to Parliament – Commonwealth Government Referendum, which is provided for your information:

Statement on The Voice to Parliament – Commonwealth Government Referendum

The Standing Committee affirmed a statement on the Voice to Parliament and requested the General Secretary to publish it on the ACA website, issue it as a media statement and send a copy to each Diocese:

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.

SC2023/1/55:

Please disseminate this statement within your diocese as required.

This statement and additional statements by NATSIAC and the Primate are published on the page for [The Voice to Parliament](#) on the General Synod website.

The General Synod Public Affairs Commission and NATSIAC are jointly preparing resources on this issue, including summaries and theological reflections for use by Anglican parishes, schools and organisations. It is anticipated that these resources will be circulated and published on the same page on the website in August 2023.

Yours sincerely



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