



An Open Letter to the Australian Public

# A Voice to Parliament will improve health outcomes

**We speak as leading health and medical organisations who spend our professional lives dedicated to caring for all Australians.**

We have considered carefully both the case for and the case against the proposed Voice to Parliament.

**We confidently believe that the proposed Voice will enhance government decision making about matters that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, ultimately improving health outcomes.**

As health professionals, we witness firsthand the disparity in health outcomes between non-Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Despite the best efforts of successive governments at all levels, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to have an average life expectancy gap of 8.2 years compared to other Australians. The Voice is an opportunity for us to make a practical difference, to ensure the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians does not continue to widen.

**We encourage all Australians to actively consider the possible health and wellbeing benefits that the Voice to Parliament would have for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.** Just as a good clinician listens to their patient, a Voice to Parliament is about listening to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Australian Medical Association	Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation	The National Heart Foundation	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation	Catholic Health Australia
Australian Medical Council	Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association	The Fred Hollows Foundation	Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association	Private Healthcare Australia
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners	Consumers Health Forum	Cancer Council Australia	Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives	Mercy Health
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	CareFlight	Beyond Blue	National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners	Mater
Royal Australasian College of Physicians	Public Health Association of Australia	headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation	The Lowitja Institute	St Vincent's Health Australia
Australian College of Nursing	Health Services Union	Telethon Kids Institute	Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia	Cabrini Australia
Australian College of Midwives	United Workers Union	Stroke Foundation	Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation	UnitingCare Queensland
Australasian College for Emergency Medicine	Mental Health Australia	Diabetes Australia	Indigenous Eye Health Unit	Southern Cross Care (NSW & ACT)
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	The Australian Cardiovascular Alliance	Kidney Health Australia	Sight for All	Calvary Health Care
The Australian College of Optometry	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Liver Foundation	The Melbourne School of Population and Global Health	Medical Technology Association of Australia
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists	Research Australia	Lung Foundation Australia	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	Johnson & Johnson
Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia	Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation	Palliative Care Australia	Burnet Institute	Telstra Health
Rural Doctors Association of Australia	Australian Women's Health Alliance	COTA Australia	Kirby Institute	Merck Healthcare
Australian Association of Psychologists	Doctors Reform Society	Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth	Doherty Institute	MSD Australia & New Zealand
Australian Psychological Society	Alcohol Change Australia	Hearing Care Industry Association	Nossal Institute for Global Health	Bayer Australia
Medicines Australia	The Shepherd Centre	First Voice	ReachOut Australia	Sanofi Australia and New Zealand
Australian Physiotherapy Association	Family Planning Alliance Australia	Australian Global Health Alliance	National Eating Disorder Collaboration	Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals
Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences	Health Equity Matters	ASHM Health	Suicide Prevention Australia	Biogen Australia
Australasian Epidemiological Association	LGBTIQ+ Health Australia	SANE Australia	Orygen	Wesfarmers Health
Australian Association of Medical Research Institutes	National Association of People with HIV Australia	The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use	Office for Global Health	Amgen
The Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs	Bobby Goldsmith Foundation	Brain and Mind Centre	BlaQ	World Wellness Group
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education	WAAC	Australian Council on Smoking and Health	Jean Hailes for Women's Health	Thorne Harbour Health
Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council	Health Justice Australia	Alcohol and Drug Foundation	Vision2020	Smiling Mind
Australian Health Promotion Association	Australasian Institute of Digital Health		Services for Australian Rural & Remote Allied Health	Medical Journal of Australia
	Australian Clinical Psychology Association			Glaucoma Australia
				Medical Software Industry Association