



Australian Medical Council Response to the National Health Leadership Forum statement

The Australian Medical Council (AMC), along with over 100 other Health organisations, signed a letter of support for the creation of a voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

On 14 October 2023, the Nation said no to this voice.

The Australian Medical Council, along with many Australians, express our profound disappointment at this outcome. We acknowledge that our feeling of disappointment is likely not comparable to those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations.

Despite this, the AMC wishes to reaffirm our commitment to listening to, and hearing, the voices of the many Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities across this continent and its surrounding Islands, and to implementing changes suggested by them in relation to Medical Education, that will lead to better health outcomes for their Peoples.

Truth telling is never comfortable, and the true history of this Nation is not always kind to those that came before us, but we at the AMC are committed to walking that path, alongside the experts in Indigenous Health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, we will continue to learn from them, and share in their knowledge, and make changes to the system, which we acknowledge, was not built to serve them.

The result of this referendum tells us that we must work harder, and that we must listen closer. The AMC will continue to support the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Medical Education and ensure that this work is implemented to the best of our abilities.

We acknowledge the impact on the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisations, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Doctors and Health professionals, and the staff and faculty with the medical sector affected by this, and we commit to continuing to work with these important stakeholders to continue this vital work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Pigou'.

Philip Pigou
Chief Executive Officer