



WOMEN OF COLOUR AUSTRALIA

Championing Australia's Women of Colour

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT OF A FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

Women of Colour Australia ('WoCA') is a non-profit organisation and registered charity founded, run, and led by Women of Colour for Women of Colour. WoCA exists to champion Australia's Women of Colour through programs of education, community support initiatives, and advocacy work, in which WoCA has a strong focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. At WoCA, we believe it is our collective responsibility and moral imperative to help dismantle the systemic barriers and structural inequities oppressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Australian citizens will be asked to vote in a referendum on 14 October 2023 regarding a proposed law to alter the Australian Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

WoCA makes this statement of support of a First Nations Voice to Parliament, noting that there are many more measures the Australian Nations must take to Close the Gap and that this is not an answer to the systematic issues and ongoing colonial violence Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to face today.

WoCA acknowledges all Traditional Custodians of the lands of Australia and pays respects to their Elders past and present. WoCA acknowledges and honours the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly women with whom we stand in solidarity. WoCA acknowledges that as settlers on this stolen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land, we are beneficiaries of the dispossession and genocide against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

- Authorised by Women of Colour Australia

