

ADEA statement on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament

Wednesday 30 August: The Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA) has released a position statement in support of the upcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament referendum.

This position is driven by ADEA's longstanding commitment to improving the diabetes education and care provided by and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to close the gap in the rates of diabetes, diabetes-related hospitalisations, and mortality.

First Nations communities are disproportionately affected by diabetes compared with non-indigenous Australians, as shown by the International Diabetes Federation and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

ADEA President Amanda Bartlett says the organisation's commitment to reducing the impact of diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is the impetus for the release of the position statement.

ADEA's referendum position aligns with its Reconciliation Action Plan, launched in June 2021, which outlines the organisation's actions in working with First Nations peoples to improve health outcomes.

'Our organisation is passionate about all people living with diabetes having equitable access to diabetes care and education,' Ms Bartlett says.

'We believe healthcare — along with food security, shelter, and education — are universal rights.'

Ms Bartlett says, 'the Voice to Parliament is the first step on the journey to recognising and supporting all First Nations peoples'.

'The ADEA statement in no way is advising members on how they should vote; rather, ADEA is encouraging members to educate themselves and vote in accordance with their values and principles.'

In supporting the referendum, ADEA joins other health organisations, including its unified partner Diabetes Australia.

Read the ADEA Statement: <https://www.adea.com.au/about-us/advocacy-and-submissions/adea-statement-on-the-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-voice-to-parliament/>

The call for a voice referendum is one of the two broad reform objectives in the 2017 [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#), as agreed to by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders at a constitutional convention on the lands of the Anangu people in Central Australia.

Voting for the referendum is scheduled for 14 October, as announced by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on 30 August.

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