



## Stand Up's Statement on a First Nations Voice to Parliament

Stand Up's mission is to inspire and mobilise the Australian Jewish community, and work together with marginalised communities to tackle Australia's most pressing social challenges. We are driven by both ancient and contemporary Jewish calls to pursue social justice and will not be bystanders to systems that have entrenched disadvantage. Failure to right a wrong is to fail our Jewish responsibility to uphold justice.

*Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof (Justice, Justice you Shall Pursue).*

One of the most significant social justice issues in Australia is the ongoing discrimination and racism that First Nations peoples experience. For a long time, Stand Up has walked side by side with our First Nations partners on the journey towards reconciliation. This is displayed in our long-standing partnership with the communities of Toomelah & Boggabilla, as well as our partners in Come Together, our own truth telling program.

### **That is why Stand Up supports a First Nations Voice to Parliament.**

Stand Up supports the Voice to Parliament; while acknowledging its complexities and that some of our First Nations partners and others in the broader community have a different view. Each individual perspective is important to understand.

The road to reconciliation is a long journey made up of many pieces: truth, treaty and voice. Each deserves equal consideration. Stand Up has long advocated for the importance of truth telling, and that is why we developed our Come Together program. This program is, and will continue to be, one of our core programs.

But right now, the entire country is being asked to consider constitutional change and to recognise a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

A 'yes' vote is an opportunity for Australia to further justice for First Nations peoples. A 'yes' vote will encourage more truth telling. A 'yes' vote will keep Australia on the critical and important path of reconciliation.

This process on its own won't instantly reduce gaps in economic, social, educational and health outcomes or remove the wrongs of the past, but it is the next step in moving Australia towards addressing its past and bringing about a just and equitable future for First Nations peoples. The Voice is an opportunity for Australia to be ambitious in supporting First Nations communities to achieve self-determination and empowerment. The Voice should be a platform to advance Truth and Treaty and for meaningful investment in First Nations communities to promote cultural and economic empowerment in a self-determined way. We will continue to advocate for the amplification of First Nations voices in order to deliver meaningful justice and outcomes for all First Nations communities.

Stand Up asks for the Australian Jewish community to stand up and join us in voting 'Yes' to a First Nations voice to Parliament. This vote speaks to the heart of Australian identity; past, present and emerging.

In leading the Jewish community towards a 'yes' vote, we will do so in line with our values of education and action. Stand Up will seek to empower the Jewish community with information and understanding. We will lead with respect, an appreciation of the nuanced issues and an ongoing commitment to truth telling.