

MARK BUTLER MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGED CARE

HEALTH ORGANISATIONS SAY YES TO A VOICE

The Albanese Government welcomes the open letter published in papers today by over 125 health organisations supporting a Voice to Parliament.

This is a wide coalition of health organisations from around the country coming together to show their support for a Voice to Parliament.

As health professionals, they witness firsthand the disparity in health outcomes between non-Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Despite the best efforts of successive governments at all levels, Indigenous Australians continue to have an average life expectancy gap of 8 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.

See the full list of health organisations who have signed the open letter supporting the Voice to Parliament [here](#).

Quotes attributable to Health Minister Mark Butler:

“I strongly welcome the support for a Voice to Parliament by more than 125 health organisations from across Australia.

“As health professionals, they know just how important it is to listen carefully to their patients and communities.

“That is exactly what the Voice to Parliament involves - listening to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about better ways to make a real difference to their healthcare.

“Year after year, we hear the same reports of the yawning gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

“I am confident that a Voice would help me, and future Health Ministers find better, more effective, practical ways to close the gap and allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to live longer, healthier, happier lives.

“We need to do better – and by voting yes on October 14, this is our once-in-a-generation opportunity to make sure we do.”