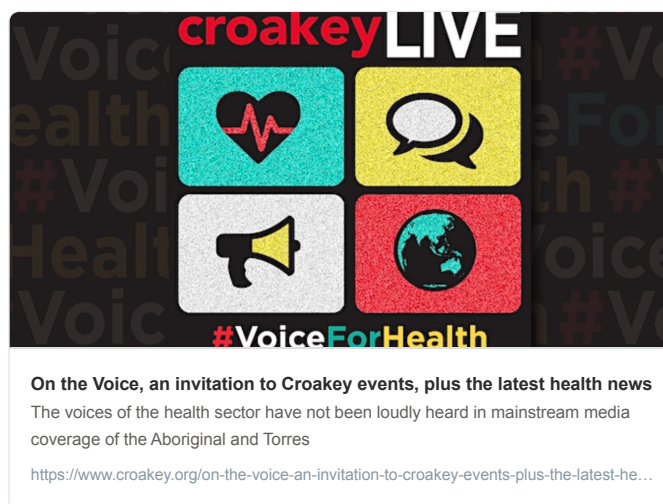




Croakey News @CroakeyNews

Sep 25 · 39 tweets · [CroakeyNews/status/1706200992646398405](https://twitter.com/CroakeyNews/status/1706200992646398405)

#VoiceforHealth @CroakeyNews webinar set to begin, featuring stellar panel: journalist Kerry O'Brien,
 @fi_cornforth @president_apa @ScottADAC and
 @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal, moderated by
 @Jade_Braddy. Details here:



Welcoming the #VoiceforHealth panel and @CroakeyNews team



. @MelissaSweetDr begins #VoiceforHealth by paying her respects to the Melukerdee people in southern lutruwita/Tasmania, and to Elders and communities who have cared for this beautiful Country over millennia, and who continue to do so.



@MelissaSweetDr . @MelissaSweetDr also acknowledges all First Nations touched by the #VoiceforHealth webinar, acknowledging that sovereignty was never ceded, and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people joining this event, and who contribute to the collective endeavours of @CroakeyNews

@MelissaSweetDr "More widely, I would like to acknowledge the massive labour – emotional, spiritual and every other kind – that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are carrying at this time," says @MelissaSweetDr #VoiceforHealth #CroakeyLIVE

@MelissaSweetDr . @MelissaSweetDr acknowledges and respects that there are "a diversity of views about the referendum", and also pay respects to the long history of First Nations leadership and advocacy over many decades leading up to the Uluru Statement in 2017 and beyond. #VoiceforHealth

@MelissaSweetDr #VoteforHealth moderator @Jade_Braddy acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar pple as the Traditional Custodians of this boojar (land) & the beautiful waters of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) as the waters of the Waugul (Rainbow Serpent) and giver of life flow in Boorloo (Perth).



@MelissaSweetDr @Jade_Braddy . @Jade_Braddy, proud descendent of the Ballardong Noongar peopl, talking about the emotional process of reconciliation within her own family, becoming a journalist to assist other Indigenous people facing similar challenges so could feel safe/speak up/tell truth #VoiceForHealth

Now up at #VoiceforHealth is @fi_cornforth, of the Wuthathi of the far northeast cape of Qld, with family roots also in the Torres Strait Islands. Inaugural head of ANU National Centre for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research, she was former CEO @HealingOurWay



@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay "There are stories that will stay with me forever," says @fi_cornforth of her former role at @HealingOurWay - also knowledge of so many issues/solutions that have been kicked down the road. #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay There is so much we have given to this nation, and there is so much excellence to honour, says @fi_cornforth who started her career at ATSIC - "was a

part of it when it was torn down...a really sad time. A pain you carry when you are making inroads, eg, at UN" #VoiceforHealth



@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay Yes, it wasn't perfect, yes there were lessons learnt, but it was something we should have built on, says @fi_cornforth of ATSIIC, and the need for a Voice to be embedded in the Constitution, asking politicians "are you listening?" #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay Next #VoiceforHealth is hearing from Kerry O'Brien, acclaimed journalist, who has campaigned for #Yes23, written a book with @thomasmayo23 and spoken out about media, misinformation and scare tactics:



Kerry O'Brien and Thomas Mayo join forces on 'truth-telling and myth-...
Pair aim to explain in simple terms what proposal is all about to counter 'noise' and 'confusion' sown by opponents

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/may/18/kerry-obrien-and-thomas-m...>



@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 Journalist Kerry O'Brien started as a journalist in Qld in 1966, in the leadup to the 1967 referendum: "I knew almost nothing about Indigenous history, culture, civilisation...almost nothing about the true history of colonisation". #VoiceForHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 Kerry O'Brien voted in the 1967 referendum "with the bare bones of a burgeoning knowledge that something was fundamentally wrong with our country", with First Nations people excluded from the Constitution. #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 Kerry O'Brien had eyes opened wide to the experience of Indigenous people in Australia, including the raw racism they faced, the injustice of the justice system, in early years/decades of his reporting #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 Kerry O'Brien said was privileged to be involved in book with @thomasmayo23 to deliver an honest reading of "such a simple proposition" of Voice, that has been subject to such misinformation - book has survived what he's sure has been much fact checking from Nos #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 Kerry O'Brien echoes @fi_cornforth on ATSIC, remembering how "the rug was pulled from under" Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with its abolition, funding pulled...so many poor efforts over the years by govts #VoiceforHealth



@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 Now hearing at #VoiceforHealth from @president_apa Scott Willis, proud Palawa man from Burnie, who has lived and worked in Northern Tasmania for over 30 years. He is the first Indigenous National President of the Australian Physiotherapy Association



@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa . @president_apa Scott Willis was told, at school, he wasn't brainy enough to aim at being a physio, would like to meet those teachers now he heads the peak body. Says Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need not just a Voice, but their own vision enabled #VoiceForHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa Deadly Physios podcast is doing important truth telling, @president_apa Scott Willis tells #VoiceforHealth

<https://australian.physio/home/podcast-shows/deadly-physios>

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa For me, the Voice is a no brainer: we need to have enshrined because otherwise be at whim of governments as we've seen in the past: imperative in reconciliation and also driving Australia forward: @president_apa #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa Kerry O'Brien is quoting Dr Fiona Stanley - giving First Nations people a voice is not only the right practical thing to do, it is also economic best practice, which is the language some people understand better than health and equity #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa Now hearing at #VoiceforHealth from @AbutlerAnnie, fed sec @anmf_federal and a registered nurse at #VoiceforHealth - here's the ANMF campaign page on #Voice and #VoteYes <https://www.anmf.org.au/media-campaigns/voice-to-parliament>



@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal Talking re need for #Voice, @AbutlerAnnie says justice, equity, solidarity are at the heart of a union lens, and the role of nurses is to care for those in need, yet the needs of First Nations people so often "just not met". #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal Nurses so often not heard too, so understand the need to have a seat at the table, says @AbutlerAnnie #VoiceforHealth "We understand that a Voice for First Nations people is absolutely critical." Talking re the history of strong Birthing on Country that colonisation disrupted

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal We saw strength also from First Nations people in the pandemic, says @fi_cornforth #VoiceforHealth

The response to the pandemic is another example. The resources and decision-making was handed over to communities (CCHOs and others), and our workforces used their knowledges to meet the support and protection needs of mob (including Elders) everywhere.

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal Kerry O'Brien says, in pandemic, Indigenous leaders came forward, knowing how at risk communities were: "the opposite prevailed, because they insisted on being heard" - he cites when Indigenous people were six times less likely to contract COVID #VoiceForHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal "Hard to find a more outstanding example of what happens if you listen to the knowledge of Indigenous advisors," says Kerry O'Brien re early COVID leadership by Indigenous people/orgs/communities #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal Now asking #VoiceforHealth panelists about the work they are undertaking in support of #Voice



@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal . @AbutlerAnnie says is hope that today's joint statement from health leaders on #Voice will have impact, trusted voices are really speaking out (and huge memberships of orgs like hers)



@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal Panel talking about how to work on #Voice, trying to be positive, respectful: @AbutlerAnnie talks about the union approach ("every one rings five people") #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal "The personal is political", @CroakeyNews cochair @BronFredericks quotes bell hooks at #VoiceforHealth - thanks panel for suggestions on how people can talk to others on #Voice. "Only 19 days now.....this time will go very very quickly".



@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal @BronFredericks . @BronFredericks talking re the hope, promise, peace that the @ulurustatement can really start to bring for this country. "Every conversation matters, every single vote will matter." #VoiceforHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal @BronFredericks @ulurustatement Kerry O'Brien says can't deny the trend of polling on #Voice, but he's sceptical of the actual figures. Every chance there can still be a #Yes23 - "I refuse to see the majority of Australians will not have the desire to do the right thing here" #VoiceForHealth

@fi_cornforth @HealingOurWay @thomasmayo23 @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie @anmf_federal @BronFredericks @ulurustatement Comment at #VoiceforHealth:

"Disappointingly, at work, we are not allowed to wear our Vote Yes t-shirts. And my employer, a hospital, aren't making a statement in support of the Voice."

And that's a wrap from #VoiceforHealth - we'll report on the discussions at @CroakeyNews in the coming days - thanks so much to panelists @fi_cornforth @president_apa @AbutlerAnnie, Kerry O'Brien, moderator @Jade_Braddy, chair @BronFredericks & all who attended.

A bit of extra Kerry O'Brien reading post-webinar: he talked about his growing understanding of racism and injustice via a shocking case in Alice Springs in 1975 involving the murder of a young woman - he outlines it in this expansive piece in @THEMONTHLY



Archive

The Monthly

We will not be complete | Kerry O'Brien

When I wrote a memoir last year, built around my 50 years as an eyewitness to a remarkable and unique period of history, I was very cautious about pursuing my personal family history for the book. I ...

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/blog/kerry-o-brien/2019/09/2019/1570582638/we-will-n...>

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