

MINISTER BURNEY HAS FAITH AUSTRALIANS WILL VOTE YES IN VOICE REFERENDUM

Wednesday, 7 July 2023

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney, received a standing ovation following her NAIDOC Week address at the National Press Club in Canberra. In her speech, she explained the fundamental purpose of the Voice to Parliament, which is "recognition" and the delivery of "practical outcomes" for First Nation Australians.

Minister Burney took the opportunity to highlight the devastating statistics on indigenous disadvantage. She spoke passionately about the disproportionate incidence of serious health conditions, rates of incarceration and suicide, and the damage inflicted by the ongoing removal of indigenous children from their families.

Ms Burney declared that governments have historically made policies for, not with, Indigenous Australians, emphasising the need for a new perspective to address old challenges. The Minister identified Health, Education, Jobs, and Housing as the key areas for Voice representatives to advise Parliament.

Expressing optimism, Ms Burney highlighted the extensive support for the "YES" campaign from faith groups, businesses, trade unions, sporting bodies, and civil society.

She concluded her speech by stating that the upcoming Referendum was the Australian people's decision, expressing confidence in a successful outcome.

CSSA Executive Director, Monique Earsman, who attended address, said "CSSA stands with the Catholic community and other faith-based peak bodies in supporting a YES vote to enshrine an Indigenous Voice to Parliament."

A YES vote will be a step towards a better and more just society where genuine reconciliation becomes possible."

CSSA members and the public are reminded that if you would like to get involved in supporting the YES campaign more information is available here: [Yes 23](#)

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) advocates for the Church's social service ministry. It is the national peak body for Catholic social service providers. The CSSA's network operates across all Australian States and Territories and has a combined total of around 600 sites.