

## TasCOSS Formal Position Statement on the Voice

Later this year, Australians will be asked if we agree to change the Constitution to establish an [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice](#).

The Voice is based on the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#), which invites all Australians to walk together to build a better future by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament in the Constitution and engaging in treaty making and truth-telling.

All three elements of the Uluru Statement align to our organisation's purpose, to challenge and change the systems, behaviours and attitudes that create poverty, inequality and exclusion.

This is why TasCOSS supports a 'Yes' vote and we encourage non-Aboriginal people to vote 'Yes' at the Referendum.

As well as our support for a 'Yes' vote, we commit to continue and strengthen our advocacy on issues impacting the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, including policies and practices to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

While the current focus is on the Voice, we must also commence work on negotiating Treaty and the process of Truth-Telling. We seek to listen to and respect the many diverse views in relation to the Voice within the Aboriginal community. TasCOSS, a non-Aboriginal community organisation, does not seek to advise Aboriginal people on how to vote. We acknowledge and respect the divergent views within the Aboriginal community. We seek to extend our support in a way that does not detract from the ongoing advocacy of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

We urge Tasmanian community services to continue supporting the ongoing work and advocacy of Aboriginal community organisations, and we encourage the Tasmanian community to engage in this important conversation in a way that is respectful, inclusive and well-informed.

We accept the invitation of the Uluru Statement to walk together in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.