

ANZAP Management Committee Position Statement regarding the proposed Voice to Parliament

The ANZAP Management Committee met on Saturday 16 September 2023 and passed a motion supporting constitutional recognition of the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

This proposed change to the Australian Constitution, to be decided by referendum on Saturday 14 October 2023, comes directly from the First Nations People through the Uluru Statement from the Heart, via the 2017 National Constitutional Convention. The Uluru Statement closes with the line, “We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future”. ANZAP endorses the Voice as a way to move towards a healing process for all Australians.

ANZAP supports this recognition directly from principles espoused by the ANZAP Code of Ethics 2019 (revised 10.12.2022), in part repeated here:

5.1 Members recognise and respect cultural diversity among people and oppose discrimination, and oppressive and unjust behaviour.

5.1.1. Members examine and acknowledge their own cultural values and recognise the ways in which the biases that arise from their own culture influence their interactions with each other and their clients.

5.4 Members practicing in Australia give recognition and promote the advancement of the inherent rights, cultures and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of this land.

ANZAP also supports this recognition because as an organisation it understands and deeply appreciates the devastating and widespread intergenerational effects of trauma suffered by the First Peoples of Australia, as expressed directly by those who have lived experience.

ANZAP finally recognises a diversity of opinion regarding the current national debate, and our own ethical stance on the need for all to behave and communicate in ways that convey respect for the legal and moral rights of others.