SANDAS gives unequivocal support for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament

The South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services declares our support for the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament in the Australian Constitution. The Voice is an integral component of the Uluru Statement from the Heart along with Truth-telling processes and the negotiation of Treaty. The Uluru Statement is a heartfelt invitation for all Australians to come together in building a positive future for us all.

SANDAS supports the implementation of the Voice as a mechanism for hearing the voices of Aboriginal people at both local and national levels, enabling effective participation in the development of policies and laws which affect their communities. While the Voice is clearly the current priority, we recognise it as only a first step in fully embracing the generous invitation contained in the Uluru Statement.

To achieve the promise of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Aboriginal nations and communities of Australia will need the support and allyship of all Australians. SANDAS commits to such allyship. We also acknowledge the association between the trauma of colonisation, racist policies and the harms related to substance use. We commit to continuing our advocacy to address the harm created by these injustices.

We will continue our advocacy for the provision of equitable, accessible and adequately funded alcohol and other drug services to Aboriginal communities and to change policies and laws that adversely impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In undertaking this work we will continue to be guided by our Aboriginal Community Controlled member organisations, Aboriginal Elders, leaders, researchers and campaigners.

SANDAS commits to sharing information about the Uluru Statement from the Heart, activities that relate to the Referendum and support for the 'Yes' campaign in the lead-up to the referendum. We encourage all our members to engage in these processes and support people to be able to make an informed decision when voting in the upcoming referendum. We encourage all our members to assist us in sharing this information among your communities, networks and staff.

We acknowledge our State Government's leadership in becoming the first jurisdiction to establish a Voice to the State Parliament, noting this is a first step towards redressing the longstanding inequalities that face Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in South Australia.

This is an important moment in our history, and an opportunity for a better future for our First Nations peoples, and indeed for all Australians.

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