

## Statement on the Voice to Parliament

The Council of the Queensland Law Society has resolved to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart and support a constitutionally enshrined Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

The position is consistent with previous QLS policy positions, including the [2022 Federal Election Call to Parties Statement](#), and consistent with the position of the [Law Council of Australia](#), of which QLS is a constituent member.

QLS Council also acknowledges that QLS members, like the community, will in good faith have a diversity of views about the referendum and will need to arrive at their own decision on the issue with an understanding of the arguments for and against the proposal.

QLS is committed to providing legal information and resources to its members and the community about the referendum, reconciliation and good law.

In coming to this resolution, QLS Council restated principled positions adopted by QLS:

- QLS acknowledges the First Nations Peoples as the original inhabitants and custodians of Australia.
- QLS is committed to meaningful reconciliation within the Australian community and to recognising the perspectives of First Nations Peoples, including First Nations lawyers.
- QLS advocates for the development of good law and in doing so, supports the creation of laws which have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals, seek to eliminate discrimination and disadvantage and provide access to justice for all members of society.
- QLS supports the vision of the QLS First Nations Cultural Outreach Strategy to support and advance First Nations Peoples to effect positive change, including by committing to advancing First Nations advocacy by actively representing First Nations solicitors and First Nations community with lawmakers, policy makers and law enforcers to promote laws that are just and equitable for First Nations Peoples.
- QLS supports the right to self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as a fundamental right for First Australians' political, economic, social, and cultural development, in accordance with principles of international law that Australia has chosen to commit itself to.
- First Nations Peoples have a right to participate in decision-making which affects their rights and QLS supports a requirement that States obtain 'free, prior and informed consent' before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect First Nations Peoples.

Further information about the referendum including past processes and reports can be found on the Australian Government website [here](#).

Queensland Law Society's legal information and resources page to its members and the community about the referendum, reconciliation and good law can be found [here](#).

