frsa Family & Relationship Services Australia

Providing Leadership, Linking Services, Supporting Relationships

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19 April 2023

Senator Nita Green, Chair
Joint Select Committee on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum
Australian Parliament House

BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Senator Green

Re: Inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum – Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023

Family and Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a short submission to this inquiry.

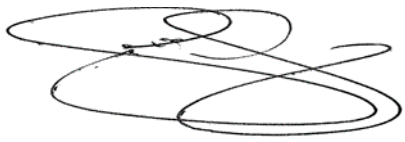
FRSA is the national peak body for family and relationship services and plays a critical role in representing our extensive network of Member Organisations to support their interests and the children, families and communities they serve across Australia.

Our vision is 'an Australia where children, families and communities are safe, strong and thriving.' An important aspect of this is FRSA's vision for reconciliation: 'an Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities are safe, recognised, respected and valued.'

We are committed to actively listening to the experiences, perspectives and knowledge of First Nations peoples. To this end, FRSA supports a Voice to Parliament, which we see as integral to ensuring that the wisdom, views and experiences of First Nations peoples are truly heard and inform policy and legislative change on matters that affect them.

We acknowledge the significant work that has gone into reaching this point and we support the Bill introduced to the Parliament on 30 March 2023 and its proposed change to the Constitution. FRSA is confident that the proposed change to the Constitution has received sufficient input to, and consideration by, constitutional experts. We defer to their judgment that a Voice to Parliament is a legally safe way to constitutionally recognise First Nations Australians.

Kind regards



Jackie Brady

Executive Director