


From: [Patricia Turner](#)
To: [Davis, Glyn](#)
Cc: [Hefren-Webb, Liz](#)
Subject: Post referendum actions - Closing the Gap
Date: Wednesday, 18 October 2023 4:15:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[Post referendum actions - Closing the Gap.msg](#)

Dear Glyn

Not the outcome we were hoping for, but one that is sadly not unexpected.

Please see attached, I have written now to Minister Burney with the proposals I had also provided to you. With the outcome known, I feel even stronger that the proposed actions are needed, in particular the Closing the Gap fund, giving our communities not just a voice but the resources to implement community driven initiatives to close the gap.


s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Regards
Pat

Patricia Turner
CEO

 02 6246 9306

 Level 5 East, 2 Constitution Avenue, Canberra City 2601, ACT
GPO Box 299, Canberra ACT 2601

 Pat.Turner@naccho.org.au |  naccho.org.au

Stay connected, engaged and informed 



The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) acknowledges the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, traditional custodians of the lands where our office is situated. NACCHO wishes to acknowledge and respect their continuing cultures and the contributions they make to the life of Canberra and the region. NACCHO also acknowledges all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.

From: [Patricia Turner](#)
To: [Minister Burney](#)
Cc: [Watts, Tim](#)
Subject: Post referendum actions - Closing the Gap
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[Coalition of Peaks - post referendum proposals October 2023.docx](#)

Dear Minister

I want to thank you for your courage and conviction in taking forward the referendum to a vote. A devastating outcome and we are all grieving. Please know that I am here to support you both professionally, in my role as lead convenor of the Coalition of Peaks, and also as a friend.

In regards to the former, attached are some suggestions from the Coalition of Peaks on actions that will help heal the nation and demonstrate the government's commitment to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's voices are centred in government decision making on matters that have a significant impact on us. I have also raised these ideas with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Warmest regards
Pat

Patricia Turner
CEO

 02 6246 9306

 Level 5 East, 2 Constitution Avenue, Canberra City 2601, ACT
GPO Box 299, Canberra ACT 2601

 Pat.Turner@naccho.org.au |  naccho.org.au

Stay connected, engaged and informed 



The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) acknowledges the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, traditional custodians of the lands where our office is situated. NACCHO wishes to acknowledge and respect their continuing cultures and the contributions they make to the life of Canberra and the region. NACCHO also acknowledges all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.

Accelerating progress on Closing the Gap in full partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – post-referendum actions

Purpose

This brief sets out key actions, recommended by the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks), that the Commonwealth Government could take following the no outcome of the referendum to support the wellbeing and improved outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Coalition of Peaks are made up of more than 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled peak and member organisations and represent some 800 organisations across the country.

Context

Both the 'Yes' and 'No' referendum campaigns have contributed to greater:

1. public understanding and support for the need for governments to take greater practical action to address the poorer life outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared to other Australians; and
2. public acceptance and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say to government on policy and program decisions that have a significant impact on them.

It is important that the government takes early action on these issues to leverage current public understanding, support and expectation. Early action is also needed to tackle the divisive that has been perpetuated by the no campaign. Demonstrating strong practical action will also support healing in the nation.

It is also fair to say that many other initiatives to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing have been put on hold for the referendum campaign and there is an urgent need to accelerate action.

The framework established under the Partnership and National Agreements on Closing the Gap provides governments with an opportunity to demonstrate meaningful post-referendum action.

Further, the proposed Voice and the Partnership and National Agreements on Closing the Gap are premised on the same foundational principle – that Aboriginal people should be heard by governments on matters about us. Re-committing and investing in the implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap enables the government to continue to show its support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices to be part of decision making on policies and programs that have a significant impact on us.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

4. The Commonwealth Public Service Act is amended to require public servants to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives on matters that significantly impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
 - o This would support the principle of Priority Reform One being enshrined into federal legislation.
 - o The Prime Minister has announced that the government will not legislate a Voice. This option provides an alternative to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are heard by government on matters that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
 - o The Coalition of Peaks and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders of the Yes Campaign could work in partnership with government to jointly develop the legislative change.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

In addition to the recommended actions, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap commits to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led Assembly to be held in 2024. This Assembly would provide an opportunity to bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country to discuss and agree further action on Closing the Gap. The Assembly could also consider any other actions needed arising from the no outcome, including truth telling actions.

Delivered by: Pat Turner, Lead Convenor of the Coalition of Peaks, **Date:** October 2023