

MEDIA RELEASE

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COTA Australia backs ‘YES’ campaign for a Voice to Parliament

COTA Australia – the leading advocacy organisation for older Australians – has officially thrown its support behind the Voice to Parliament.

Patricia Sparrow, COTA Australia Chief Executive Officer, said the organisation support a ‘yes’ vote in the lead up to the upcoming referendum on October 14th.

“COTA Australia strongly believes that publicly supporting a ‘yes’ vote in the upcoming referendum is the right thing to do,” Ms Sparrow said.

“This wasn’t a difficult decision for the COTA Australia Board to make. When you look at the core values of our organisation, providing support for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament became very clear.

“At COTA Australia we understand the importance of consultation and in providing everyone with the means to have a say in matters that affect their lives and communities. It’s central to who we are as advocates for older people.

“We see those values reflected in the Voice to Parliament.

Ms Sparrow said COTA Australia’s eyes are open to the differing views on the Voice currently held within the community and urged respect across the board.

“Everyone will make their own decision come referendum day. We see COTA Australia’s role as providing as much clear and factual information as possible to help people ensure that they’re making an informed decision when they head to the polling booth on October 14th.

“It is important for COTA Australia to always be transparent and clear in its actions and to stay true to its values, which is why we’re publicly stating our support for the Voice.

“While we of course respect everyone’s right to their opinion, we are hoping for a large ‘yes’ vote from all Australians, including older people.

“This is an historic opportunity to create a better, fairer Australia for everyone.”

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Authorised by Patricia Sparrow, COTA Australia, 17b/16 National Circuit Canberra.

The Council on the Ageing (COTA Australia) is the country’s leading advocacy organisation for older people.