

5 JULY 2023 – MEDIA STATEMENT

TUSA supports the Voice to Parliament referendum

The Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA) stands with First Nations people and their perspectives during the upcoming Voice to Parliament 2023 referendum.

We at the TUSA believe that any stance we take must be informed by the views of First Nations students and staff at the University of Tasmania, and we are committed to ensuring that the student voice is represented in conversations surrounding the Voice to Parliament proposal. We believe that it is important to take a stance on this topic, to stand in support with First Nations students and staff at the University of Tasmania, and more broadly First Nations community.

We would like to acknowledge that within our elected State Council of 2023, we do not have any First Nations people, from Tasmania or interstate, represented directly. Our stance has been reviewed by First Nations students, and the staff at our Riawunna centre, but does not take priority above the voices of First Nations people.

As a result of these discussions, we are in principle in support of the Voice to Parliament referendum.

We recognise that many perspectives on the topic exist within the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. We believe that an authentic consultation and development of First Nations input into governance is needed to appropriately reflect the views of First Nations people and their communities.

As an organisation, we encourage both the University of Tasmania student body and the general public to engage in further dialogue with community to gain a better understanding of the impact of the Voice to Parliament referendum.

The University of Tasmania has developed resources that present some perspectives on the topic, available at: [Voice to Parliament | University of Tasmania \(utas.edu.au\)](https://www.utas.edu.au/voice-to-parliament).

We encourage all of community to engage in this topic with respect and consideration for First Nations people, and for each other. We will continue to stand in solidarity of our First Nations communities, lutruwita always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

ENQUIRIES: President Liam McLaren, 0456 087 863, President@TUSA.utas.edu.au