



# **Voices for Impact**

Supporting the  
First Nations leaders  
mobilising around  
the Referendum

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

**Australian Communities Foundation acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants and Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.**

Sovereignty has never been ceded. This always was and always will be Aboriginal land and that is why supporting Indigenous self-determination is a key focus area for Australian Communities Foundation and the Impact Fund.

**Voices for Impact** is the Impact Fund's Large Grants Round for 2023, dedicated to supporting First Nations leaders mobilising around the Referendum for Voice.

**The Impact Fund** is a movement of funders and changemakers working for a fairer and more sustainable Australia. Together, we support the boldest solutions to the biggest issues facing people across our country today. The Impact Fund is led by Australian Communities Foundation.

**Australian Communities Foundation** is a non-profit organisation that supports structured giving. Our purpose is to activate a nation of givers for a fairer and more sustainable Australia.

Learn more: [communityfoundation.org.au](https://communityfoundation.org.au)



# Join us for this **momentous** opportunity to help create a **fairer Australia**

**In 2017, 250 First Nations leaders from across the continent came together to craft an invitation to the Australian people that would become the Uluru Statement from the Heart.**

Six years later, we now have an opportunity to answer its call, taking a first step towards its realisation with the creation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

Later this year, Australians will vote in a referendum that asks a key question: should we alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?

This vote will give all Australians the chance to come together and consider a change to our Constitution for a fairer Australia.

First Nations leaders, advocates and communities are working together to ensure that all Australians understand the significance of this vote.

In coming together to support the campaign for a Yes vote, we have a rare chance to build on this work and make a major positive impact now and for future generations, enabling Indigenous communities to have a say on matters that impact them rather than have decisions made on their behalf.

Join us for this momentous opportunity to help create a fairer Australia.

**Jody Barney, Rueben Berg and Chris Croker**  
First Nations Advisory Group  
Australian Communities Foundation



**JODY BARNEY**  
**ABORIGINAL / SOUTH  
SEA ISLANDER**  
Executive Officer, Koondée  
Woonga-gat Toor-rong



**RUEBEN BERG**  
**GUNDITJMARA**  
Representative for the Metropolitan  
Region, First Peoples' Assembly of  
Victoria, and ACF Director



**CHRIS CROKER**  
**LURITJA**  
Managing Director, Impact  
Investment Partners, and  
ACF Director

# We're saying **YES**

**This is work that is close to our hearts. Australian Communities Foundation has long supported First Nations communities.**

This commitment was formalised in 2009 with the establishment of our Indigenous Donor Circle and further embedded in 2017 with Supporting Indigenous Self-Determination becoming one of our four key Impact Areas.

Our work in supporting Indigenous communities is now being guided by the leadership of a First Nations Advisory Group, who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to these conversations.

**If you support the principle of First Nations communities having a say on the laws and policies that affect them, then we invite you to join us in saying YES to this once-in-a-generation opportunity.**

To date, our community has given more than \$17 million to Indigenous communities, including \$1 million raised through the Impact Fund for Indigenous-led initiatives such as:

#### **DHADJOWA FOUNDATION**

Establishment of grassroots organisation to support Indigenous families affected by deaths in custody

#### **ULURU DIALOGUE**

Collective of First Nations leaders with the cultural authority of the Uluru Statement, progressing Voice, Treaty and Truth

#### **RAISE THE AGE**

Campaign to increase the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years old, led by Change the Record

#### **TOWARDS TRUTH**

Collaboration between the Uluru Dialogue and the Public Interest Advocacy Centre to develop truth-telling resources.



**MAREE SIDEY**

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Australian Communities  
Foundation



**ERIC BEECHER**

**Chair**  
Australian Communities  
Foundation

# Introducing the projects mobilising around the Referendum



## **Educating community on Voice, Treaty, Truth**

Partner: Uluru Dialogue, Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW

**\$50,000 RAISED | \$250,000 TARGET**



## **Shifting the narrative and building support for self-determination and justice**

Partner: Passing the Message Stick

**\$50,000 RAISED | \$250,000 TARGET**



## **Coordinating a national campaign for Yes**

Partner: Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition

**\$50,000 RAISED | \$250,000 TARGET**



## **ACF Rapid Response Referendum Grants Pool**

Australian Communities Foundation

**\$50,000 RAISED | \$250,000 TARGET**



This photograph has been used with permission of family.



ULURU DIALOGUE | INDIGENOUS LAW CENTRE, UNSW

LEARN MORE

## Educating community on Voice, Treaty, Truth

**\$50,000 RAISED | \$250,000 TARGET**

**The Uluru Statement from the Heart, born from generations of advocacy, put forth an invitation to the Australian people to create a better future through a series of reforms.**

The Uluru Dialogue, based at the Indigenous Law Centre UNSW, continues to carry the cultural authority and the mandate of the Uluru Statement through the four pillars of its referendum campaigning:

- **Maintaining and growing First Nations Peoples consensus** through facilitated dialogues, workshops and community events, and elevating First Nations voices;
- **Providing leadership to influence political, media and community decisions and discourse** through a comprehensive proactive earned and social media strategy, partnerships, events, speaking engagements and political engagement;

- **Providing legal and technical expertise**, including playing a key role in the three formal government referendum working groups, leading legal and policy work with the Indigenous Law Centre, and advising on the drafting of the Constitutional amendment and referendum ballot question; and
- **Educating the Australian community** with a research-informed and targeted influencer, advertising and digital strategy.

### WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS

Your support means the Uluru Dialogue can continue to pursue its mandate for a Constitutional Voice. Your funds will be invested in research, staff, travel to regional and remote communities, strategy work, advertising and community education.





## PASSING THE MESSAGE STICK | AUSTRALIAN PROGRESS AND GETUP!

AUSPICED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

[LEARN MORE](#)

# Shifting the narrative and building support for self-determination and justice

## \$50,000 RAISED | \$250,000 TARGET

**Passing the Message Stick is a multi-year research project shifting public narrative in support of First Nations justice and self-determination. The foundational research has already been widely adopted by First Nations organisations, advocates, journalists and allies.**

As we approach the Referendum, Passing the Message Stick is prioritising research on two issues where there is momentum and opportunity for substantive change: transformative policy change, and law reform and justice.

The project will see an extensive national rollout to share the research far and wide, equipping communities with the tools and skills to apply effective messages to their campaigns.

Project activities include:

- Conduct and share research with First Nations advocates and organisations
- Train 50-100 First Nations media spokespeople
- Develop a train-the-trainer model for five First Nations Messaging Fellows
- Share the research more widely with a further 5,000+ advocates and journalists
- Build on existing website and resources.

## WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS

Your support will equip First Nations advocates with effective messaging in the lead-up to the Referendum, and lay the foundations for further policy change on truth-telling, treaties, health, education, housing, climate and protecting Country.



[LEARN MORE](#)

## AUSTRALIANS FOR INDIGENOUS CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

# Coordinating a national campaign for Yes

### **\$50,000 RAISED | \$250,000 TARGET**

**Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition (AICR) is the key fundraising and organising vehicle in the campaign for Constitutional Recognition through a Voice to Parliament.**

In the lead-up to the Referendum, AICR is enabling all Australians to be a part of this historic opportunity through a national campaign: Yes 23.

AICR's work this year includes the development of a strategic communications plan (encompassing creative and mass communications, narrative and messaging, earned and paid media), government relations, and on-the-ground conversations, all underpinned and informed by detailed research and insights.

To support the campaign, AICR is convening the Yes Alliance – a growing network of organisations and supporters.

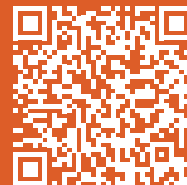
The Alliance encompasses many committed First Nations-led organisations and community groups, and allies.

A defining feature of AICR's work is a Capacity Fund, managed by AICR and administered by Australian Communities Foundation, to provide funding for Yes Alliance partners to build their capacity and undertake aligned campaign activities on the ground in their own communities.

### **WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS**

Your support will enable First Nations leaders to build a national community of supporters advocating for lasting and meaningful change through on-the-ground conversations.





AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION

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## ACF Rapid Response Referendum Grants Pool

**\$50,000 RAISED | \$250,000 TARGET**

**Australian Communities Foundation is launching the Rapid Response Referendum Grants Pool to support community groups and organisations all over the country mobilising around different aspects of the campaign.**

Recognising the unique role we can play with our capacity for quick and effective grantmaking, we are launching the Grants Pool to complement the Capacity Fund led by Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition.

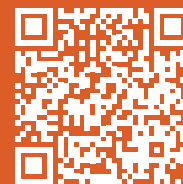
Our established infrastructure and processes will enable us to get resources out quickly in response to immediate need and fill gaps as they arise throughout the campaign.

Small grants (\$5,000 – \$10,000) will be provided to support local efforts that elevate First Nations voices and enable accessibility of information and resources about Voice, Treaty, Truth and the Referendum for all communities.

Our First Nations Advisory Group will develop a simple and culturally appropriate application process, including clear guidelines and a transparent decision-making framework.

### WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS

By contributing to the Grants Pool, your support will mean funds can be quickly distributed as needed to support local efforts elevating First Nations voices in the lead-up to the Referendum.



SCAN TO GET  
INVOLVED

## Get Involved

### Join us in supporting First Nations leaders mobilising around the Referendum

Australian Communities Foundation is contributing \$50,000 to each of the four Voices for Impact projects.

We are now inviting you, our Impact Fund community, to give together so we can collectively contribute \$1 million towards a positive outcome this year.

Join us in supporting First Nations communities leading this work to create a fairer Australia.

#### OPTION 1

##### Contribute from your ACF Fund

Make a contribution from your Fund to any of the Voices for Impact projects by scanning the QR code above or heading to [communityfoundation.org.au/voices-for-impact](https://communityfoundation.org.au/voices-for-impact)

#### OPTION 2

##### Contribute directly

If you don't have a Fund with us or would like to make a direct donation to these projects, scan the QR code above or head to [communityfoundation.org.au/voices-for-impact](https://communityfoundation.org.au/voices-for-impact)

Please let us know about your direct support using the link above.





## Other ways to get involved

### REFERENDUM RESOURCE HUB

As we approach the Referendum, we will be sharing all the latest resources and ways you can get involved on our Referendum Resource Hub.

Visit the Hub: [communityfoundation.org.au/referendum-resource-hub](https://communityfoundation.org.au/referendum-resource-hub)

### SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES

Sign up to our mailing list to be the first to hear about opportunities to learn from and support First Nations leaders.

Subscribe: [communityfoundation.org.au/subscribe](https://communityfoundation.org.au/subscribe)

## Thank You

Thank you to the generous bequests of Joan and David McLennan, Joan Nelson, Ruth Dixon, Dianne Lesley Young and Lydia M MacMichael. They each left a legacy to the community and made the Impact Fund possible.



**Artwork:** Walpa Winaka (To Burn & Leave) #8 by Wergaia/Wotjobaluk artist, Robby Wirramanda, courtesy of The Torch.

**Artist statement:** “Burning the land removes toxins and growth inhibitors, which in turn allows our country to regenerate and remain healthy. We can use the same method in our lives, like a seasonal burn, to achieve the same outcome.”



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