

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **RIAC supports 'Yes' Campaign**

The Rights, Information, and Advocacy Centre (RIAC), a community organisation committed to supporting and advocating for people with disabilities, their carers, and communities, today declared its support for the 'Yes' campaign in the upcoming Voice to Parliament referendum.

As a disability advocacy organisation, RIAC fundamentally believes in principles of justice and human rights, working to support its clients in protecting and defending their rights.

RIAC CEO Dr Sandy Ross said a 'Yes' vote in support of the Voice to Parliament would provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a meaningful forum to participate in decisions that impacted their lives and was a significant step forward in the journey toward genuine reconciliation.

"Standing with First Nations people is integral to RIAC's commitment to fostering an inclusive society where human rights are respected, and all are valued, heard, and empowered, regardless of their abilities, background, or circumstances," Dr Ross added.

"We are proud to accept the invitation extended in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and resolve to work alongside First Nations people of the lands on which we work – Djaara, Yorta Yorta, Wurundjeri, Ladji Ladji, Barkinji, Wadawurrung, Bangerang, and Taungurung – to establish a Voice enshrined in the Constitution."

RIAC is also urging its communities, stakeholders, clients, and colleagues to join them in saying YES to the Referendum in 2023.

You can read RIAC's Yes campaign positioning statement <u>here</u> or to find out more about RIAC's advocacy work, programs, and initiatives, or to learn how to support their mission, visit their <u>website</u>.

## For more information or interviews:

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## **About RIAC**

The Rights, Information, and Advocacy Centre (RIAC) is a non-profit community organisation committed to building the capacity and wellbeing of individuals, families, carers and communities through advocacy, access, and support services.

RIAC works across 22 Local Government Areas throughout central and north-western regional Victoria and parts of southern New South Wales on the lands of the First Nations people, the Djaara, Yorta Yorta, Wurundjeri, Ladji Ladji, Barkinji, Wadawurrung, Bangerang, and Taungurung with offices in Geelong, Bendigo, Shepparton, and Mildura.