

Post-Referendum Statement

The First Nations Eye Health Alliance (FNEHA) was disappointed and saddened by the outcome of the recent Australian referendum to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

FNEHA is a self-determined Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak health body that represents the views of our First Nations members on eye health and vision care needs for our communities. We reaffirm the importance of building approaches that listen to and respond with commitment, to the health needs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. We are committed to strive with a renewed dedication to see the enactment of improvements to eye health and vision care outcomes for our families and communities, by First Nations people for First Nations people.

FNEHA remains committed to the full implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart – Voice, Treaty, Truth. We will continue to call for health equity, justice and to upholding the rights and voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that our communities are healthy and thriving. We thank the over 6 million* Australians that share this vision and look forward to the way in which these stakeholders and our allies in the eye health sector, can journey with us on this important work.

The momentum gathered coming up to the referendum date will not be lost. We are committed to building unified and equitable healthy futures for First Nations people and we will work with our friends and allies, to see this vision become a reality.

We are stronger together.

*Source: <https://tallyroom.aec.gov.au/ReferendumNationalResults-29581.htm>

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About

The First Nations Eye Health Alliance was established to stop preventable vision loss and blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. Comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members working at a local, state, and national level, the collective informs and supports the development of equitable changes to eye health care for First Nations Communities through the strategic and operational activities undertaken by the First Nations Eye Health Alliance board and secretariat.

For more information, please visit www.fneha.com.au