



# Aston Community News

**A message from  
Mary Doyle MP**

Your local Member for Aston

**A referendum has been called for the 14th of October 2023.**

For many Australians, this will be the first referendum that has been held in their lifetime.

Every Australian will be invited to have their say, and I encourage all local residents to have their voice heard.

Early voting will commence in our community on the 2nd October 2023

For more information on the referendum, please see the inside page.

It has been a busy few months. There are some exciting initiatives that I wanted to update you on.

From cheaper medicines, to thousands of fee-free TAFE places, to Energy Price Relief — the Albanese Labor Government has been busy delivering targeted cost of living relief to Australians.

We're working every day to build a stronger economy and a fairer society.



Multicultural Community YES Forum  
Springvale Townhall

**Mary Doyle MP**  
Federal Member for Aston



# What is a referendum?

A referendum is a vote that is required in order to change the Australian Constitution.

The Australian Constitution is our nation's birth certificate. It effectively sets out the rules by which Australia is run.

In order to change the Constitution, a referendum must pass with a 'double majority'. That is, a majority of voters, and a majority of voters in a majority of states.

**We are voting on the following question:**

## A Proposed Law:

**To alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.**

**Do you approve this proposed alteration?**

# What are we voting on?

The vote will decide whether we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution, and whether we consult with First Nations people on matters that affect them, through a Voice to Parliament.

That's it.

**The Voice will be a committee of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who will give advice to the Parliament and Government on issues that affect their community. It won't have power over Parliament.**

# Voting in the referendum

Every Australian aged 18 years and over will be required to vote - just as they do when a federal election is held.

**Early voting will open from the 2nd of October.**

**Scan here for more information on polling locations and enrolment.**



# Why I'm supporting the 'YES' campaign



This referendum is about:

## ✓ **Recognition**

Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our Constitution and paying respect to 65,000 years of culture and tradition.

## ✓ **Listening**

Listening to advice from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about matters that affect their lives, so governments make better decisions.

## ✓ **Better Results**

Making practical progress in Indigenous health, education, employment and housing, so people have a better life.

When governments listen to people about issues that affect them, they:

- Make better decisions.
- Get better results.
- Deliver better value for money.



# Uluru Statement From The Heart

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

*This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.*

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution. Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

# Local Headline

It was a pleasure to welcome The Hon. Mark Dreyfus KC, MP, the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, to the Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC) in Boronia. The ECLC is a multidisciplinary legal service that works to prevent problems, progress fair outcomes and support the wellbeing and resilience of communities and community members in Melbourne's East.



## The Aston Electorate Office can assist with information about Federal Government services, including:

- Centrelink
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Medicare
- Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- Immigration, citizenship and customs
- Passports
- Pensions, and My Aged Care
- Child support
- Veterans' Affairs

Scan here for information about grant opportunities.



## Get in touch

✉ [Mary.Doyle.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Doyle.MP@aph.gov.au)

☎ (03) 9887 3890

📍 Suite 4, Level 1, 420 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South VIC 3152

🌐 [www.marydoyle.com.au](http://www.marydoyle.com.au)

📱 @MaryDoyleMP