

## Dear Members and Friends

### October 2023 Newsletter

#### ***Acknowledgement of Country***

ANTaR Queensland acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as traditional custodians and as peoples who have cared for the land and waters of what is now called Queensland over countless generations. We acknowledge the violence and pain inflicted by colonization and by continuing colonial structures and approaches and recognize that sovereignty has never been ceded. We offer respect to the Elders of the past, with a history over thousands of years, to those present today and those emerging, and to all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who continue to care for country and culture often in the face of great obstacles.



#### **The Referendum**

The loss of the Voice referendum has brought deep grief and disappointment to many people, particularly many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We consider that it is the loss of a rare opportunity to transform the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples at a structural level, to move closer to the broader Australian society fully recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as First Peoples, and to embrace a more democratic, inclusive form of political life.

The referendum made it very clear how much work there is to do. But it also underlined that there are many people who support recognition, justice and self-determination for First Peoples. We all need to pursue these goals more actively and together!

**Please join or support an organisation, whether ANTaR Qld, ANTaR National, a local reconciliation organisation, a local neighbourhood centre with relevant activities or another like-minded group.**

**Please read the statements below by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders supporting Yes, ANTaR national, the Northern Land Councils and Thomas Mayo.**

ANTaR Queensland poured a lot of energy into supporting the Yes campaign, through Mob23 and Yes23 and through collaborating with other organisations like Reconciliation Queensland and PIEEC.

We will now be working even harder to pursue our over-arching goals of justice, rights, recognition and self-determination for First Peoples. We will work with other like-minded Indigenous and solidarity organisations, communities and individuals to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led goals and strategies and help inform the wider Queensland community, and we will deepen our own advocacy and understanding and continue to build the respectful relationships which enables community change. And do this via [our various Focus areas](#):

- [Let's Chat](#) and Yarning Circles, for truth-telling and sharing, together with other groups
- [Community Engagement](#) including funeral support in collaboration with other groups
- [Advocacy](#) and working with community groups in regard to Indigenous incarceration and child detention
- Supporting the [Queensland Treaty](#) process
- What's On via our [Facebook](#) page
- [Sea of Hands](#)

### **Join Us - Renew your membership - Support our work.**

In Queensland, the referendum loss has encouraged the LNP to withdraw support from the Path to Treaty process. This is worrying. We are concerned that in both state and national politics, Indigenous issues could become a weapon in a new round of culture wars and misinformation, up to elections and beyond. This benefits no-one. See below for the call by Interim Truth and Teaty Body for the Government to remain committed to the process of truth and treaty.

We are also aware that our Murri friends, family and colleagues are facing an upsurge of racist actions.

Both these developments highlight the need for non-Indigenous people to build respectful everyday relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in our neighbourhoods, schools or workplaces and in small, normal, non-intrusive ways show that we value them. We can all play a role in changing and countering destructive community attitudes and practices and we can reach out of our comfort zone to do this.

## Post Referendum Statements:

[Statement for Our People and Country](#), by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, organisations and communities who supported Yes.

[Northern Land Councils' Statement](#)

ANTaR National Statement

<https://antar.org.au/antar-statement-on-the-referendum-outcome/>

Thomas Mayo's post referendum article. In the Saturday paper, if you subscribe:

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/indigenous-affairs/2023/10/21/analysis-the-movement-that-follows-the-voice#hrd>

Check out the ANTaR Qld Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AntarQld/>

## Statement by the Interim Truth and Treaty Body

[Interim Truth and Treaty Body call for the Queensland Government to stay committed to Truth and Treaty](#)  
[| Interim Truth and Treaty Body](#)

