



## **Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**

### **Media release**

The Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples today met privately to consider feedback received on its interim report.

The committee's strong view is that the referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's Constitution should be held at or before the next federal election.

'The committee has gathered evidence of public willingness for constitutional change,' committee Chair Mr Ken Wyatt AM MP said. 'Australians want to see the question they will be asked to vote on. Once properly informed, they will be ready to vote,' Mr Wyatt said.

The committee's view is based on evidence received at its public hearings.

'In the view of the committee, what is needed is a committed public education campaign towards a specified referendum date, no later than the federal election in 2016.'

The committee was established by Parliament build a strong, secure multi-partisan parliamentary consensus around the timing, specific content and wording of referendum proposals for Indigenous constitutional recognition, and to consider mechanisms to build further engagement across all sectors of the community.

The committee tabled an interim report on 15 July 2014, and is planning to provide recommendations on a referendum proposal before the end of October 2014.

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#### **Contact:**

For comment, please contact the Office of the Chair Mr Ken Wyatt AM MP on 0450 219 109 (Jarrod Lomas).