

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) welcomes Minister Ken Wyatt's announcement this week that action will be taken to advance constitutional recognition for Indigenous Australians. In line with NAIDOC Week's theme: Voice. Treaty. Truth it is a significant step in advancing the voice of Indigenous Australians. AASW's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander board representative Linda Ford said, "Voice, treaty and truth are the key elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which Australian social workers support, including a Voice to Parliament. In addition, this year's theme aligns with 2019 being the United Nations' International Year of Indigenous Languages, particularly voice and truth. Ms Ford said, "It is time to listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about the past, about the present and to join forces for the future of our nation. "Now is the time as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to talk about the past, to acknowledge our place as part of the fabric of our nation, including our traditions and our contributions and to move forward as a nation together. "As social workers, we look forward to advancing this year's theme of Voice. Treaty. Truth into action across the community." In the AASW Election Policy Platform, it sought to ensure that the next Australian government supported the self-determination of Indigenous Australians. NAIDOC's theme Voice. Treaty. Truth reinforces the idea that a voice to Parliament for our country's Indigenous peoples is not a radical suggestion: it is a necessary step in shaping a just and inclusive Australia.

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