



INSTITUTE OF  
**SISTERS of MERCY**  
OF AUSTRALIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ABN 42 931 784 103

## **IT'S TIME FOR FIRST NATIONS VOICES TO BE HEARD**

The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea supports a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution as a vital step in the journey of reconciliation and healing for Australia's First Nations people and for all who inhabit this land.

Six years ago, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, through the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, graciously invited all Australians to walk with them towards a just and better future.

We wholeheartedly accept this invitation and support the Yes case in the October referendum.

As Sisters of Mercy, we are committed to a more just society. The Institute's Constitutions remind us that 'justice is mercy in action' [4.04] and 'we are called to give special form to God's mercy in our love for one another' [4.07]. Australia's First Nations people will only achieve justice when they are able to have their Voice heard in relation to decisions that impact their communities.

For decades many of our sisters have lived and journeyed with Australia's First Nations people both in our cities and in remote communities. Collectively we have learnt much, as well as witnessing the problems standing in the way of First Nations' communities flourishing.

The First Nations people have asked us to walk with them through constitutional recognition and a constitutionally enshrined Voice. These actions would begin to raise the dignity of First Nations people, who include some of the most marginalised members of society and enable them to take their rightful place within the Australian nation.

An Australia in which First Nations people are listened to and respected will not only benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, it will also mean a better Australia for everyone.

**Eveline Crotty RSM**  
**Institute Leader**  
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