

Using Our Voice: Aegros Supports 'Yes' to Voice to Parliament

11 September 2023,

When we established Aegros in 2017 we did so with the distinct goal of commercialising our Australian invention in Australia, for Australians and then the world.

Australia has provided us with so much opportunity professionally and personally. We are Australians, this is where our hearts are, where we have raised families, formed communities, developed world beating innovations, but most of all, - inhaled the Australian air of freedom and inclusion.

However, our constitution does not recognize our indigenous citizens nor does it have a venue for these valuable and first citizens to be heard. In our view this significant imbalance needs to be rectified. How can we talk of 'Mateship' when our constitution states Australia to be Terra Nullius, a land belonging to nobody, absent of civilized people.

The establishment of the Voice allows us, as Australians, to institute meaningful change which is something that parliaments of all colours have not achieved. The current referendum provides Australians with the opportunity to show our political leaders we believe in a better, more equitable Australia.

The Board of Aegros is proud to announce our commitment to support inclusion and equality – two of our corporate values. Aegros emphatically supports a **'Yes'** vote at the upcoming referendum on the Uluru Statement and Voice to Parliament on October 14th 2023.

We realise there are a variety of views in the community, and we are not seeking to force our opinions onto others. Rather, from our perspective, as Australians who love this country, and as a company that values inclusion and respect, we cannot ignore that, to date, we as Australians talk of inclusion/Mateship while specifically excluding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under our Constitution.

In 1967, Australians were asked to vote in a referendum to remove blatant discrimination against First Nations people from our constitution. Australia voted 'Yes'. In 1992, the constitutional notion of Terra Nullius was challenged and overturned in the landmark case, *Mabo v Queensland*. So, the Australian constitution, assented to in 1901, has already changed as we have matured and evolved as a nation.

What has been missing, and what Australians are being asked to vote on now, is to add into the Constitution, language that positively acknowledges First Nations people for their longstanding stewardship of our country and the vibrancy of their cultures. We are also asked to add into the Constitution a mechanism, subject to change by Parliament, by which First Nations peoples' needs and perspectives will be included in government decision making.

Voting 'Yes' to support the Uluru Statement and Voice to Parliament is therefore just the next step of a journey we are already on, and one that we as a collective should all take together. Doing so will benefit all of us by ensuring the wisdom of all Australians is available to grow our Commonwealth and ensure its fruits are available to all.