

Barton Deakin Brief: Minister Ken Wyatt's Pledge for Indigenous Recognition

10 July 2019

Today, Minister for Indigenous Australians the Hon Ken Wyatt MP addressed the National Press Club and outlined his goal to hold an Indigenous referendum within three years.

In his capacity as Minister for Indigenous Australians, Minister Wyatt's intention is to co-design a referendum model that will have the highest likelihood of success. Minister Wyatt has pledged to work closely with Ministerial and Parliamentary colleagues, State and Territory leaders, government departments, the National Indigenous Australians Agency ([NIAA](#)) and Indigenous communities, organisations and leaders to develop a strategy to introduce an Indigenous voice to government and constitutional recognition.

The newly established National Indigenous Australians Agency became operational as of 1 July this year. The Agency was created to improve levels of growth and advancement in education, employment, suicide prevention, community safety, health and constitutional recognition and will be an integral voice in determining the Indigenous referendum model.

Minister Wyatt has also made it a priority to talk to corporate Australia to devise strategies to improve Indigenous contribution in the workplace. Since 2015, more than 1530 Indigenous businesses have won over 12,600 contracts under the Indigenous Procurement Policy. Further support has been provided by the Business Council of Australia who have pledged to ensure that "Australia's First People's share in the same economic and social opportunities as every other Australian". Additionally, Minister Wyatt will work with the BCA to discuss "how business can best work with the Government to build prosperity in Indigenous communities".

Current commitments include:

- Establish a non-partisan parliamentary working group with Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs Linda Burney MP and other Members of Parliament.
- \$7.3 million for a co-design process to improve local and regional decision making
- \$160 million has been set aside for a future referendum once the model has been determined

To read the Minister's speech, click [here](#).

To watch the Minister's Press Club Address, click [here](#).

For further information on Minister Ken Wyatt's Press Club Address, contact [David Alexander](#) on +61 457 400 524, [Grahame Morris](#) on +61 411 222 680 or [Paul Fitzgerald](#) on +61 408 406 547.