

We are a group of 24 Sisters of Mercy and regard it as an honour to participate in this historic Australian process. Aware that the federal government has made a commitment, in response to the Makarrata Declaration, to provide a national Voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, we look forward to seeing this implemented with urgency.

This means that enabling legislation for the Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament. The referendum and the legislation will be critical to ensuring a permanent Voice for Indigenous Australians, and thus ensuring that our nation is grounded in fundamental justice.

Regarding the matter of who will be chosen for this Voice, we have confidence that the outstanding capacities and commitment of Indigenous Australian leaders will be available to ensure that the representation will be broadly based and that local and regional structures will be established to ensure that this reaches all relevant community sectors and locations.