

30 October 2014

Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition
of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

**Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**

Insurance Australia Group Limited (IAG) is the parent company of a general insurance group with controlled operations in Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Vietnam, employing more than 15,000 people.

Its current businesses underwrite approaching \$10 billion of gross written premium (GWP) per annum, selling insurance under many leading brands including NRMA Insurance, CGU, SGIO, SGIC and Swann (Australia); NZI, State and AMI (New Zealand); Safety and NZI (Thailand); and AAA Assurance (Vietnam). IAG also has interests in general insurance joint ventures in Malaysia, India and China.

IAG has a long and proud tradition of empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and believes business can play a leading role in addressing economic and social disadvantage.

On 10 December 2013, IAG became the 500th organisation and the first general insurer to commit to a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP strengthens our focus on fostering relationships, cultivating respect and creating opportunities for Australia's First Peoples. To progress the fulfilment of our RAP objectives, IAG has:

- adopted an Acknowledgement of Country protocol across our Australian operations;
- partnered with CareerTrackers to provide internships for promising young Indigenous university students. IAG has committed to providing internships to 15 students each year;
- become an official partner of Jawun, which connects organisations and Indigenous communities requiring support. IAG has committed to providing 12 secondment opportunities every year;
- strengthened our relationship with the NPY Women's Council in Alice Springs by becoming their major corporate sponsor;

Insurance Australia
Group Limited
ABN 60 090 739 923

388 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

T +61 (0)2 9292 9222
www.iag.com.au

- sponsored the Supply Nation Awards, which recognise companies, government agencies and individuals who strive to grow Indigenous business and enterprise;
- renewed our long-standing contract with Indigenous-run organisation Message Stick to supply teleconferencing services to the Group. Message Stick's CEO Michael McLeod was also behind the formation of Supply Nation, which connects Australian businesses and government agencies to Indigenous businesses;
- engaged with Recognise, including by hosting Recognise Campaign Director, Tim Gartrell, at IAG at an event attended by our staff, including our Group CEO on the proposed campaign.

IAG is proud of the impact these achievements have had on our business and employees. As one of Australia's leading organisations, IAG will continue to help achieve reconciliation and fulfilment of its commitments under the RAP in the future.

IAG supports the convening of a referendum to consider constitutional amendments to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The amendments constitute an important step in our journey towards achieving reconciliation for our nation.

We believe it is important that the Government seek the views of all Australian citizens, prior to finalising the referendum question.

We believe any proposed changes presented to the Australian people should be both symbolic and meaningful, and should ensure there is not future capacity for governments to discriminate on the basis of any race.

Importantly, for there to be value in the outcome of the referendum the proposed question should ensure that the unique position that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold in the history of our country is recognised.

IAG encourages all businesses to participate in this important debate and to invest their time and energy into ensuring their employees, business partners and associates are aware of the significance of these amendments in order to allow for all Australians to make an informed decision when a referendum date arrives.

Please contact Phil Lockyer on tel +61 2 9292 9631 with any comments regarding this submission.

Yours sincerely



Brian Schwartz AM

Chairman

Insurance Australia Group Limited