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| **To:** | All SLSNSW Clubs and Branches |
| **From:** | Surf Life Saving NSW |
| **Date:** | 10 July 2023 |
| **Pages:** | 1 |
| **Subject:** | **SLSNSW Advice to Members on the Voice to Parliament** |

***Surf Life Saving NSW acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians across all the lands on which we live, work and patrol.***

The upcoming referendum on an **Indigenous Voice to Parliament** is an invitation for all our members to individually express their position within this important debate.

While reconciliation activities align with our broader aims to foster equality and inclusion, Surf Life Saving NSW is keen to remain independent of the politics of the debate and leave individual members to determine their own position.

As we cannot practically represent the views of all our 76,000 members, we will remain impartial and not seek to influence people’s opinions or behaviours.

This also accords with Surf Life Saving’s non-political and non-sectarian policy and Section 52 of the SLSNSW Constitution (Nov 2022).

Surf Life Saving is a diverse and inclusive organisation which is why we are encouraging our members to engage in an informed, respectful conversation regarding the upcoming referendum.

The Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commissioner has also reminded that if a charity plans to undertake advocacy activities, it must be able to demonstrate how this advocacy furthers its charitable purpose, as set out in its Constitution.

We understand that some Surf Life Saving Clubs wish to engage in the debate, including hosting information sessions for members or the local community. In considering these sorts of activities, it would be worthwhile to ensure there is an opportunity for differing opinions on the referendum to be voiced in a safe and respectful way.

References

[SLSA Policy 6.25 Non-Political and Non-Sectarian](https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/members/policies/slsa-policy-6-25-non-political-and-non-sectarian/)

[SLSNSW Constitution (Nov 2022)](https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/members/resources/slsnsw-constitution/)