

## **MEDIA STATEMENT FROM RECOGNISE JOINT CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR TIM GARTRELL**

**April 16, 2015**

Recognise was established to increase public awareness and community support for the recognition of the first Australians in the nation's constitution and to ensure there is no place in it for discrimination. That remains our mission.

For the last three years we have championed that cause and around 250,000 Australians have signed up to it. This includes Australians from a broad spectrum of society, many of whom have joined us through the 33,000 kilometre Journey to Recognition relay.

We understand that in order to settle on a referendum model there will be many options canvassed before the Parliament finally settles on a referendum bill. We note that any model must be capable of building a very broad coalition of support.

The most recent nationwide poll found almost 7 out of 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (68%) supported constitutional recognition. Fewer than 1 in 10 were opposed (6%).

Integral to this process is ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders are brought together. The Prime Minister has committed to a meeting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and the Leader of the Opposition. This meeting should now occur as a priority.

In the meantime, Recognise will continue with its mission to raise awareness of the need for constitutional recognition and for the nation to deal with the discrimination that still exists within the founding document