



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Parliamentary Friends of First Nations Peoples; LGBTIQ+ Round Table

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (7.22 pm): The bipartisan Parliamentary Friends of First Nations Peoples, which I co-chair with the member for Noosa and the member for Southport, was established in 2021 to encourage respectful conversations related to the often uncomfortable and sometimes unknown truth about the shared history of our state. Last night, Parliamentary Friends of First Nations Peoples hosted an important panel discussion about the Voice to Parliament referendum. The incredibly informative panel discussion was moderated by Deanella Mack from EY and included Noel Pearson, Dean Parkin and Semara Jose who collectively shared their knowledge, experience and history of involvement in this important subject.

With close to 150 people in attendance, including around 50 members of parliament from right across the spectrum, this was an important conversation about what is a nation defining moment in our history. With a referendum proposing the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our country's Constitution via a Voice to Parliament expected later this year, last night's event was a chance to ask questions in a respectful environment and learn more about the intent of the proposed referendum.

Enshrining a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution will recognise the special place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this country and acknowledge their ancient connection to these lands as the longest continuous living cultures on the planet, but it will also recognise our collective Australian identity. It is a profound opportunity for all Australians to speak the truth of who we are as a nation and ask our Constitution to reflect that back to us.

The Premier, on behalf of the government, has reiterated support for the Voice and as a Quandamooka woman I support that position. I encourage all members to learn more about the decades long efforts to bring us to this point in history so as to engage in informed conversations with Queenslanders. More information can be found at [yes23.com.au](https://yes23.com.au).

Another significant event that has been held recently was the first meeting of the Queensland government's second LGBTIQ+ round table, which I was proud to convene. Reconvening the LGBTIQ+ round table is a key action in the Communities 2032 Strategy. The round table comprises 17 community members, representing diverse sexes, genders and sexualities, including people from First Nations and culturally diverse backgrounds. They are joined by six representatives from Queensland government agencies. The round table will help to inform government strategies, policy, programs and services. It will deepen the government's engagement with LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders, including in regional, rural and remote areas, and assist the government to understand the lived experiences of community members.

Since the decriminalisation of homosexual acts by the Goss government more than 30 years ago, it has been Labor governments that have delivered important reforms supporting LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders. For just over 20 years, Rainbow Labor has played a vital role as a conduit for many of the important reforms that have been brought about. I would like to congratulate Rainbow Labor members and activists on their important contribution over two decades and wish them all the best for the next 20 years.