



Australian  
**Charities** and  
Not-for-profits  
Commission

# ADVOCACY AND THE REFERENDUM

Guidance to support charities

ACOSS - Stronger Charities Alliance webinar

**Sue Woodward AM**

Commissioner

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# THE VOICE REFERENDUM

- Over centuries charities have made a valuable contribution to public debate
- The referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament is another opportunity for charities to consider advocacy

Find out more:

[www.acnc.gov.au/referendum](http://www.acnc.gov.au/referendum)



# WHAT IS OK

- Advocacy that furthers your charitable purpose
- One example that is ok for all charities:
  - a statement of support for the ‘yes’ or ‘no’ vote in the referendum eg, in the charity’s email signature block

Find out more:

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# TIPS

- Think about why advocacy furthers your particular charitable purposes – good to record this
- Distinguish what is being done in the name of your charity and what staff (paid and volunteer) do in their personal life
- Remember advocacy must be lawful, respectful, and fair to meet obligations under ACNC Governance Standards

Find out more: [www.acnc.gov.au/referendum](http://www.acnc.gov.au/referendum)



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