



Richmond Football Club partnership launch, April 2019

VICTORIAN TREATY ADVANCEMENT COMMISSION

Quarterly report April to June 2019

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY

Enrolment opens

On 10 May 2019 enrolment to vote in the election for the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria (the Assembly) opened. Enrolment is open to Victorian Traditional Owners, wherever they live and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have lived in Victoria for at least three of the last five years. At the time of enrolment opening, the enrolment period was expected to run until 21 July 2019, which was later extended based on community feedback (see right). Community members are able to enrol online, in-person with Commission staff or an Assembly Election Officer, or by post.

After the official opening of enrolments at the Koorie Youth Summit, the Commission held another launch event at The Long Walk in Federation Square on 25 May. These events allowed hundreds of Aboriginal Victorians to enrol for the Assembly elections.

Candidate nominations open

On 27 May 2019 candidate nominations for the Assembly opened. Nominations were open to all Victorian Traditional Owners aged 18 and over and eligible to be a director of a company. The Commission launched an additional communications campaign to encourage community members to consider nominating.

Election deadlines extended

In response to community feedback the Commission announced in June that the timelines for the Assembly election would be extended. The extension would allow community members more time to consider nominating as a candidate and enrolling, and allowing more time for votes to be cast. Candidate nominations were extended to 16 August 2019 and the election period expanded to five weeks and moved to 16 September to 20 October 2019.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMISSION

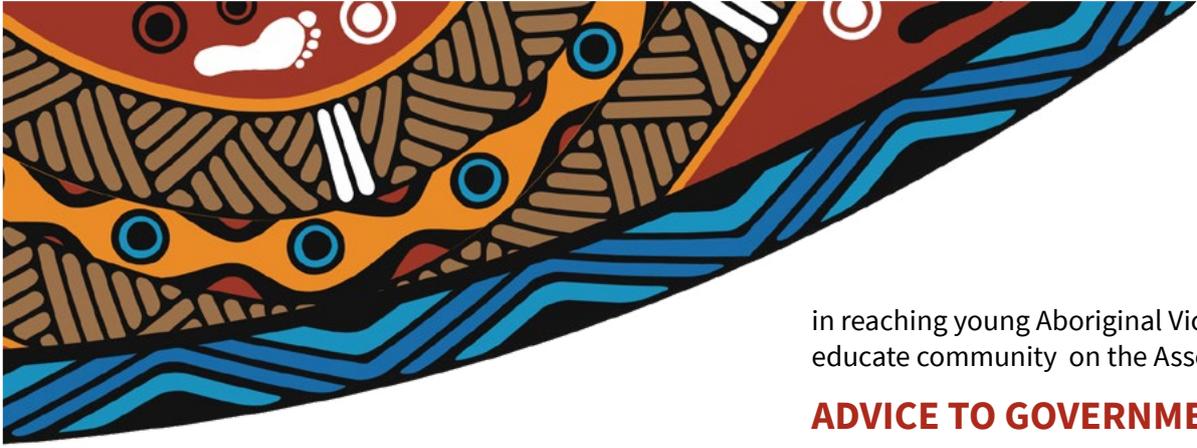
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Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission



ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY

Engagement with Elders on the design of the Elders' Voice

On 29 April 2019 the Commission kicked off the first of 19 workshops with Victorian Aboriginal Elders to identify their priorities in the design of an Elders' Voice.

The Elders' Voice will sit alongside the elected Assembly members to provide advice, wisdom and input to decisions of the Assembly. The consultations with Elders were organised and facilitated by Pricewaterhouse Coopers Indigenous Consulting (PIC). Elders were asked to provide input on the purpose, role, structure and membership of the Elders' Voice, which will assist the Assembly to determine its final design.

Assembly Election Officers

The Commission appointed eleven Assembly Election Officers (AEOs) to help the Victorian Aboriginal community enrol and vote in the Assembly election process. AEOs were appointed in Melbourne, Bendigo, Sale, Bairnsdale, Swan Hill, Ballarat, Warrnambool, Geelong and Shepparton, all were identified positions.

In regional areas AEOs were hosted by local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and in Melbourne AEOs were hosted by the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (FVTOC).

Using their knowledge of, and connections with, their local communities, AEOs were able to drive enrolments and votes in the election process. Following several training sessions conducted by the Commission, AEOs undertook activities such as holding yarning circles, attending events to encourage and help people to enrol, organising local advertising such as billboards and flyers and delivering face-to-face electoral support.

Koorie Youth Summit

From 10-12 May 2019 the annual Koorie Youth Summit was held in Melbourne. The first day of the summit saw the launch of enrolments for the Assembly, with enrolment open to Aboriginal Victorians aged 16 and above.

The Commissioner presented and met with Summit attendees and Commission staff attended the event to help young people to enrol. The event was successful

in reaching young Aboriginal Victorians and helping to educate community on the Assembly election process.

ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY

The Commission continues a busy schedule of engagement with community across the state. In addition to meetings with groups of Elders from Wurundjeri, Taungurung, Gunaikurnai and Bunurong, this period included meetings and events with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations, the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association, the Defence Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Network and additional prison visits.

The Commission also met with the British Columbia Treaty Commission in May. The BC Treaty Commission has been a valuable and ongoing source of inspiration and information. The Commission would like to thank the BC Treaty Commission for taking the time to meet and share their journey towards treaties.

Partnership with Richmond Football Club and Korin Gamadji Institute

The Commission also partnered with the Richmond Football Club and Korin Gamadji Institute to help raise awareness of the treaty process. The partnership is a great opportunity to increase the reach of the Treaty message and drive enrolments in the election process. This period included key events as part of the partnership, including a Dreamtime morning tea and the Long Walk and Dreamtime at the 'G AFL game.

ABORIGINAL TREATY WORKING GROUP

The Aboriginal Treaty Working Group continues to play a key role in providing strategic guidance and input to the work of the Commission. The Commission met with the full Working Group twice during this period and the sub-committee members as necessary to support policy development. Working Group members also supported the Commission's work at a range of public events.

