

ATTACHMENT A SPEAKERS NOTES – NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023 EVENT

INTRODUCTION

- Good morning everyone and welcome to National Reconciliation Week 2023. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our guest speaker, Kutcha Edwards, who we look forward to hearing from shortly.
- First I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we all meet, wherever you may be joining us from today:
 - the Wurundjeri **[wah-rund-jerry]** people of the Kulin **[koo-lin]** nation here in Melbourne.
 - the Ngunnawal **[nunna-wall]** people of the Ngunnawal nation in Canberra.
 - the Gadigal **[gad-ee-gal]** people of the Eora **[ee-or-ah]** nation in Sydney.
- I pay my respects to elders past, present and future. I would also like to extend that respect to our First Nations colleagues joining us today.
- Before we commence the formalities, it is great to see so many people coming together for this presentation. For those of you who are joining us online today, can you please mute your microphones and turn off your cameras. We will invite you to turn your camera on if you have a question at the end of Kutcha's story. You may also add your comments or questions into the chat throughout the presentation, we will share these at the end.
- The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023 is 'Be a Voice for Generations'. This theme is an encouragement to all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in all aspects of our lives – where we live, where we work and where we socialise.
- This year's National Reconciliation Week theme also urges all Australians to use their power, their words and their actions to create a better, more just Australia for all of us. We can do this by being opposed to racism, inequity and injustice, and by continuing the work of generations past to benefit the generations of the future.
- I am looking forward to the work we will do in 2023 and beyond, set out in our very first draft Reconciliation Action Plan. Thank you to the Working Group and to those of you who provided feedback on our draft Plan. We are now working with Reconciliation Australia to finalise the plan. I look forward to being able to launch the plan soon, as a key step in the ACMA's journey to contributing to reconciliation in our nation.

- As you will all know, this year, Reconciliation Week occurs at a time when the Parliament is considering a referendum. The draft of the question to be put to voters is available in the *Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023 Bill* that was introduced into federal parliament in late March.
- In that context I appreciate that we will all have our own personal views on the referendum question. It is timely to remind everyone that we are all free to engage in this conversation in a personal capacity, but it is not for the ACMA to discuss the arguments for or against the proposed change. And as Public Servants we are expected to maintain public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Australian Public Service. If you are unsure about what this means for you, please contact our HR team who can point you in the direction of published guidance material for public servants.
- But now I'd like to provide a little background on Kutcha before handing over to him:
 - Kutcha Edwards is a proud Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta, Nari Nari man and a strong advocate for Aboriginal people, dedicated to the continuum of his traditional Song line.
 - Kutcha has been prolifically combining song writing and activism since 1991, when he joined Koori group Watbalimba and began the remarkable journey that has taken him from the tiny Riverina town of Balranald to tours of Australia and the world.
 - Kutcha believes music chose him; he is a multi-award winning singer/songwriter. He uses music to create connections across cultures, generations, and spaces. He draws on his own life experiences, to help his audiences understand themselves, reconnect with their culture and promote cultural understanding.
 - Listening to Kutcha will be an opportunity for us all to learn from experience, and in turn reflect on our own experiences of reconciliation and how we can continue to support reconciliation both as individuals and as the ACMA. I now welcome Kutcha to share his story with you.