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CALD ORGANISATIONS DECLARE SUPPORT FOR RECOGNISE

Nine national Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) organisations have joined forces to declare their support for the recognition of Australia's first peoples in the Constitution.

Signing the RECOGNISE CALD Accord the organisations have pledged their support in promoting the RECOGNISE campaign in culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Signings of the Accord took place in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

Vivi Koutsounadis signed the Accord on behalf of the National Association of Multicultural and Ethnic Children's Services.

"It was indeed a very moving and historical moment for me to sign the document on behalf of the National Association of Multicultural and Ethnic Children's Services; to support the referendum for the recognition of the Aboriginal people as the first Australians which is the undeniable truth to eventuate and their human, land, cultural and other rights are enshrined in the Constitution," Ms Koutsounadis said.

She also shared some of her life experiences from growing up in Redfern and the role her family played in the 1967 referendum.

"I was privileged to have been involved with the Aboriginal movement in Redfern in the early 1970s. My family had a milk bar in the area and my first job was as a Welfare Officer with the Aboriginal community at South Sydney Community Aid," Ms Koutsounadis said.

"Signing the Accord reminded me of the first referendum of 1967, and I and my family, who worked in the milk bar frequented by Greeks and other nationalities, urged and told Greek and other migrant people to vote Yes for the referendum."

Tim Gartrell, RECOGNISE Joint Campaign Director is delighted to have strong backing from nine national CALD organisations.

"The RECOGNISE CALD Accord ensures that RECOGNISE engages with CALD communities in a respectful manner and in a way that will resonate with the communities," Mr Gartrell said.

"We want all Australians to have an understanding of the constitutional process and the change that is proposed. As we continue to build momentum, all Australians must be engaged in the debate."

Momentum and support for the RECOGNISE campaign continues to rise, with over 284,700 Australians affirming their support. Since 26 May 2013, the Journey to Recognition relay has engaged with more than 235 communities and 24,280 Australians.

For more information about the campaign head to www.recognise.org.au.



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The alliance includes the Migration Council of Australia, National Ethnic Disability Alliance, Settlement Council of Australia, Refugee Council of Australia, National Welfare Rights Network, National Association of Multicultural and Ethnic Children's Services, Australian Multicultural Foundation, Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network and Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia.