

# Judith Nangala Crispin



I'm a Canberra-based poet and visual artist, with a background in music, living in Braidwood NSW.

From messenger : <https://www.messenger.com/t/1066329368>

I'd like to make a statement about why I will vote Yes to an Aboriginal voice to parliament.

I understand many concerns of the No campaign. I too would prefer to see a treaty, but I will still vote Yes at the referendum. Of course, a single voice can't possibly represent every clan and tribe, but I will still vote Yes. We don't know what the voice will look like, and its a risk, but I will still vote Yes. And no, I don't see this measure closing the gap, but I will vote for it anyway.

Aboriginal people, from both the Yes and No camps, are all trying to find a way forward, and it's not easy. But I will vote Yes because voting No feels like another violence.

I will vote Yes because we lose three Aboriginal people a week to suicide, and if this referendum fails we will lose more. I will vote Yes because there are old people who have waited their whole lives for federal recognition of one kind or another, whose hopes rest on this (rightly or wrongly). I will vote Yes because it is not worth losing a single Aboriginal life over this referendum. A No result will demoralise those of us with the least power and the smallest voices. Kids in care. Old people on dialysis. I will vote Yes for them.

If the No vote prevails, it will be interpreted by many Aboriginal people as a sign of national indifference to two centuries of massacre, displacement and inequality.

In deciding how to vote on this very historical issue, I am choosing to consider the least advantaged of us and not the most privileged. For me, with the greatest of respect to those with an alternative view, it really is that simple.