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For media

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA WELCOMES RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Reconciliation Australia welcomes the Prime Minister's announcement to recognise the special place of Indigenous people as Australia's first peoples by amending the preamble to the constitution.

For this initiative to receive the kind of popular support demonstrated in the 1967 referendum we know it will need:

- an effective and respectful consultation process with Indigenous people
- a sustained community education program for non-Indigenous people; and
- bi-partisan support.

Reconciliation Australia Chief Executive, Barbara Livesey said 'The proposed change to the preamble is one important element of the reconciliation agenda. An apology to members of the stolen generation has always been another important element of reconciliation. The development of a comprehensive, long-term national strategy to address all aspects of Indigenous disadvantage is fundamental.

Media contact: Claire Tedeschi on 0418 633 277