

From: APH Website contact form <@..>

On Behalf Of

S. [REDACTED]@darebin.vic.gov.au

Sent: Thursday, 20 October 2022 12:33 PM

To: Giles, Andrew (MP) <..@..>

Subject: APH Website contact form - new enquiry ..@..

Parliamentarian Hon Andrew Giles MP

Name Ms. Lina Messina

Telephone (work) - 0384708888

Telephone (mobile)

Email S. [REDACTED]@darebin.vic.gov.au

Address 274 Gower St Street
Preston
VIC
3072
Australia

Question 19 October 2022

In reply please quote reference:
Ref: A6434618

The Hon Andrew Giles MP
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Giles

Re: Reinstatement of the right to conduct citizenship ceremonies

On behalf of Darebin Council may I firstly congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs.

I am writing to you to seek your support to reinstate the right for Darebin City Council to perform citizenship ceremonies for newly arrived communities.

As you may be aware, Darebin City Council's right to conduct citizenship ceremonies was removed in August 2017 following our Council's decision not to hold citizenship ceremonies on 26 January. This was to acknowledge that this day marks the beginning of the British invasion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands and oppression of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and is therefore not an appropriate date for an inclusive national celebration.

The 2017 decision also reaffirmed our commitment to holding citizenship ceremonies in a positive and timely way on dates as required and would not include 26 January. This has seen the development of an annual inclusive event co-designed with Traditional Owners and the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee. While our Council continues to welcome newly arrived communities through such activities, five years since this decision we are still restricted from performing formal citizenship ceremonies.

On 27 June 2022, Council resolved to formally request a review of this decision. As a Government committed to enshrining a voice for First Nations people in the Constitution, we seek your support to enable Council to fulfil our obligations as a Local Government Authority in conferring citizenship on their residents on days other than the 26 January.

If citizenship ceremonies are returned to Darebin, Council will seek involvement from Traditional Owners and the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee in the formation and delivery of any future citizenship ceremonies to continue our partnership with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities that make Darebin home.

I have also written to the Prime Minister and Minister for Indigenous Australians seeking their support and look forward to your response.
Yours sincerely,

Cr Lina Messina
Mayor

xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xxx.xx

s. 47F(1)