

## Media Statement



**MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Diabetes Victoria offers support for all people in the diabetes community

Diabetes Victoria is the leading charity and peak body representing people affected by diabetes in Victoria, and recognises the importance of supporting, empowering, and campaigning across all communities and for all people.

As a sign of respect, Diabetes Victoria is making it clear 26 January is not a day of celebration for everyone in the Victorian diabetes community.

Diabetes Victoria's CEO, Glen Noonan said, "Our mission is clear; to support, empower and campaign for all Victorians affected by, or at risk of, diabetes.

"We work closely with our priority communities to understand different needs and deliver activities that support fairness and health equity. This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who reside in Victoria.

"We know 26 January means different things to different people. For some people in our community this day is not a day to celebrate.

"For many First Nations peoples, this date and public holiday is a painful reminder marking the start of colonisation and dispossession of their land.

"These growing discussions in our community over the date and options to change the date from 26 January are important in ensuring we find a day all Australians can accept and enjoy," he said.

Diabetes is increasing at a faster rate than any other chronic condition, with approximately 374,000 Victorians living with diabetes, and remains one of the biggest challenges confronting our health system.

Mr Noonan said, "We stand in solidarity on this day with First Nations peoples as we continue to seek an inclusive and respectful community," he said.

Diabetes Victoria plays an important role in advocating for and amplifying the voices of all Victorians affected by diabetes and recognises the potential sensitivity and significance of celebrations that occur on 26 January for many people in the diabetes community.

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