

Evelyn Scott

1935-2017

Australia

Evelyn Scott was a pioneering Indigenous Australian social activist and educator. She was a driver of the 1967 referendum, a momentous turning point in Australian history where more than 90 per cent of voters chose to delete discriminatory references to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution. In 1973, she became the first General-Secretary of the Indigenous-led Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, and then served as the chair of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation from 1997 to 2000, a fractious period, during which the government refused to apologize to the Stolen Generations and reduced the budgets of several national Indigenous organizations. She was the first Aboriginal woman to be accorded the honor of a state funeral by the Queensland government.

