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## Albanese Hints at New Indigenous Affairs Action

July 22, 2025

— Categories: General News



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese took part in a traditional smoking ceremony, a symbolic move that may indicate upcoming policy action on Indigenous affairs following the failed 2023 referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has drawn national attention after taking part in a traditional smoking ceremony in Canberra, an event many believe could signal renewed government efforts on Indigenous affairs. The gesture comes nearly a year after the 2023 referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament was rejected by voters, a major setback for advocates of constitutional recognition and greater representation for First Nations peoples.

Although no formal announcements have followed the ceremony, political observers say such a symbolic act is rarely without intent especially given the Prime Minister's vocal support for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament before the referendum. Despite the public setback, Albanese has consistently stated that his commitment to improving outcomes for First Nations Australians remains unchanged.

The failed referendum was a blow to many, particularly Indigenous leaders who had spent years advocating for constitutional change. However, the government now appears to be shifting its focus toward other practical measures that may gain broader public support. These could include targeted funding for health, education, and housing initiatives in Indigenous communities, or strengthening existing structures like the National Indigenous Australians Agency.