

Liberal Party's referendum fearmongering divides

Personal rivalry between the leaders of the two major parties is indeed an element in the Voice debate ("Personal contest shapes Australia's future", August 28). However, the rivals carry the weight of history too, one with extreme moral implications. The Liberals' pamphlet begins: "All fair-minded Australians want to see Indigenous Australians in disadvantaged communities improve their lives." Since 1944, when the Liberal Party was founded, it has been in office for twice as long as Labor. Is there any evidence it has done twice as much for the Indigenous peoples during that time? The Voice referendum is a unique opportunity to make fundamental changes. I wish the Liberals would think of the future of all Australian children instead of playing on fear, politicising a moral issue and dividing the nation.

Susan Connelly, Lakemba

It's impossible to fathom how Anthony Albanese, with all of his self-declared compassion and enthusiasm for the Voice, could get it so wrong. As David Crowe points out, some detail would go a long way. Albanese's mistake is oversimplification. His expectation that the majority of Australians will "do the right thing" and vote Yes is a huge reach given our history of approving only a few referendums to date. His approach has a whiff of

stubbornness about it that implies political ineptitude. October 14 may prove to be the day he will rue for the rest of his life. Sadly, it may also be the day that Peter Dutton will rise from the ashes of last year's election defeat, shameless that he has been instrumental in creating the fear, uncertainty and



divisiveness that delivers a majority No vote. All we Yes voters can do is wish for a miracle.

Dorna Wiemann, Balmuir

Those who complain that the consequence of the Voice will be the unfair elevation of the Indigenous population must, by implication, assume that at present, all are equal in our society. The truth is that we are a very unequal society, and our Indigenous brothers and sisters are discriminated against out of all proportion. Bodies that

represent to parliaments the pharmacists, miners, businesses, unions and so on achieve results for their members, but no one benefiting from their work would consider that they, as a result, have been somehow lifted above other Australians. The establishment of the Voice will be a simple and permanent first step to correct the present unfair imbalance.

William Forbes, Medowie

The referendum result will show whether Albanese can be a statesman. If the Yes vote wins, will he have the vision and fortitude to shape a national Voice that will move Australia towards resolving big questions about sovereignty, treaties and redress? If No wins, will he be prepared to bring the premiers together to forge a coherent path towards these things, before any more states join Victoria and South Australia in doing their own thing? Whatever the outcome of the referendum, reconciliation will be for Albanese to win.

Ian Bowie, Bowral

Brilliant, Mickey Pragnell (Letters, August 30). I hope to soon see your slogan - "Don't No, Vote Yes" - emblazoned on placards everywhere. So good to see something positive as well as witty to combat the deluge of negativity.

Patricia Dunn, Gerringong