

Uluru Statement from the Heart

Toolkit

Key information to impact your
sphere of influence

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We need your help to grow the grassroots movement to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Voice, Treaty, Truth.

Welcome

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a profound call from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for constitutional change and structural reform in their relationship with Australia. The Uluru Statement calls for a First Nations Voice to Parliament protected by the Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to supervise agreement-making and truth-telling. These reforms are known as Voice, Treaty and Truth.

The success of any future referendum on protecting a First Nations Voice in the Constitution will depend on gaining the support of the majority of Australians, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. Your support is essential and has helped get the Uluru Statement to where it is today.

Support for the Uluru Statement and a First Nations Voice to Parliament protected by the Constitution has grown from strength-to-strength since 2017 when the Uluru Statement was first gifted to the Australian people. The federal government has committed to a Referendum before the end of the Financial Year 2023-24. Diverse polling has shown an overwhelming majority of Australians are ready to vote yes.

This tool kit is an update to our previous toolkit designed to help Local Reconciliation Groups, organisations and individuals host events and facilitate conversations to increase knowledge about what the Uluru Statement from the Heart is. The momentum is building and we are very close to achieving our goal of the Australian people having their say at a referendum on a First Nations Voice.

This kit provides an easy and accessible guide to create an event that is as big or small as you wish to make it. A morning tea in the staff room, an afternoon tea in your home, a



workshop in your workplace, or a town hall gathering with a panel discussion or distinguished speaker.

We have provided ideas, templates, and access to resources both in hard copy and downloadable files.

Thanks for taking the time to explore this toolkit and we wish you great success in hosting an event in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Reconciliation NSW

We would also like to thank the Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW, Thomas Mayor, Summer May Finlay, Paige Chowdury from United Voice NSW and the Sydney Supporters of the Uluru Statement from the Heart group for their support in developing this kit, as well as all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples voices that have contributed to the campaign and continue to work to build support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Journey

How the Uluru Statement from the Heart was created

In May 2017, First Nations forged a historic consensus around the Uluru Statement. This consensus followed a ground-breaking process of engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Australia through deliberative dialogues in 13 regions. Joining each dialogue were approximately 100 representatives drawn from local Traditional Owners, Indigenous community-based organisations and Indigenous leaders. These dialogues selected representatives to attend the First Nations Constitutional Convention at Uluru. At the Convention, in an overwhelming consensus more than 250 delegates adopted the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Uluru Statement calls for three fundamental changes: Voice, Treaty, Truth. The first reform is the constitutional enshrinement of a First Nations Voice. The Voice will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples politically. It will be a permanent institution for expressing First Nations' views to the parliament and government on important policy decisions affecting their rights. The next reform after the Voice is established is Treaty, followed by Truth. These reforms would involve establishing an independent Makarrata Commission to oversee the negotiation of treaties and truth-telling processes.



Image:
Professor Megan Davis, Pat Anderson AO and Noel Pearson at the First Nations National Constitutional Convention 2017 presenting the Uluru Statement from the Heart to the Australian people. *Image: Jimmy Widders-Hunt*

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty *is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty.* It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is *the torment of our powerlessness.*

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take *a rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the *coming together after a struggle.* It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

<https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/view-the-statement/>

1.3. Call to Action: What can I do to support the Uluru Statement?

1. Know the material: become familiar with the Uluru Statement, what it calls for and what it means. Find out more at UluruStatement.org and FromtheHeart.com.au
2. Share your support and [have conversations](#) with colleagues, friends, family etc.
3. **Broaden your advocacy** by joining a group (e.g. the [Uluru Youth Network](#), [From the Heart](#), a [Local Reconciliation Group](#), the [Voice from the Heart Alliance](#), a University student group, etc.)
4. [Write to your Minister](#) and elected representatives, especially if they or their party have not yet shown support for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.
5. Ask your work to [endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) and share this support publicly.
6. **Download [posters and designs](#)** – display them in your office, on your car, on your phone etc.
7. Host your own event to influence your sphere – use the [Host an Event guide](#) as part of our toolkit.
8. Use social media as a tool for sharing your support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart publicly. [Utilise the Uluru Statement's Supporter Kit](#) of designs for social media and From the Heart's [Tools and Resources](#).
9. [Read and educate yourself](#). Knowing about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories can be a simple way to understand and find out about your local area, and how to support reconciliation.
10. **Vote yes** in the upcoming Referendum to enshrine an Indigenous Voice in the Constitution.

2.1. Voice Factsheet

The Uluru Statement from the Heart identifies a First Nations Voice to Parliament as a crucial next step in promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples' right to self-determination.

To effect long lasting and systemic change, there must be consultation, partnership and representation that reflects the diverse 250 plus First Nations cultures and language groups across Australia.

A First Nations Voice guaranteed by the Constitution will offer a permanent platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices to be heard by Parliament and ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a say in the policy matters that affect their lives.

In order to establish a First Nations Voice in the Constitution this change will have to be passed at a referendum.

The specification that a First Nations Voice be constitutionally protected is an important one. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have extensive experience of fluctuating stability where Indigenous advisory bodies have been created and dissolved due to changes in government and political priorities (for example, the abolition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission). The Uluru Statement calls for a stable platform, guaranteed by the Constitution for First Nations voices to be heard now and into the future.

The way in which this advisory body would function has been misunderstood by previous governments. The [Indigenous Voice Co-Design Final Report](#), released in July 2021, has sought to guide and clarify the bodies function in practise.

The Voice would be a non-legally binding advisory body that represents First Nations opinions at local, regional and national levels, advising on significant matters of importance to the social, spiritual and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The National Voice, and Local and Regional Voices, will not deliver programs, manage funding, or make parliamentary decisions. The relationship between Parliament and the Voice is a two-way interaction of communication to amplify the voices of First Nations peoples and promote self-determination.

The Voice, if supported by the Australian public in a Referendum, has the potential to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' and communities' voices are heard and their guidance and expertise is followed by governments in regards to Indigenous affairs.

A First Nations Voice to Parliament would ensure that Parliament is better and more appropriately informed in its approach to Indigenous affairs policy and law making.

2.2. Treaty Factsheet

Establishing a treaty is an essential next step in acknowledging and giving legal effect to the historical and contemporary cultural rights and interests of First Nations peoples. In this context, a treaty is an agreement between First Nations peoples and State and Federal Governments of Australia.

Australia is the only Commonwealth nation yet to sign a treaty/treaties with First Nations peoples. New Zealand has *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* signed in 1840, and Canada has *The Numbered Treaties* signed between 1871 and 1921. For decades, a treaty has been identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as an essential step in securing the protection and ongoing recognition and maintenance of First Nations peoples' unique rights and interests. A treaty can serve as a basis for self-governance and a mechanism for decision making.

In March 2018 the Victorian Parliament became the first to introduce treaty legislation. In June 2018 the Northern Territory Government and the Territory's four Aboriginal land councils signed the Barunga Agreement — a memorandum of understanding outlining the path towards treaty negotiations. In July 2019 Queensland Government launched the "Tracks to Treaty" commitment, part of a pledge to reframe its relationship with the state's Aboriginal and Torres Islander peoples as it paves a path towards a treaty.

Constitutional Reform and Treaties

A First Nations Voice to Parliament is vital to ensuring First Nations representation in negotiating a treaty and agreement making processes at Federal and State levels. A constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament will play an important role in both treaty and agreement making processes with Federal and State governments, and will also provide an important function in ensuring the ongoing maintenance of, and adherence to, agreements made with First Nations peoples.

A constitutionally enshrined Indigenous Voice will help balance equal bargaining power in treaty and agreement making negotiations between government and First Nations peoples. Constitutional reform is a key mechanism for ensuring that treaties with First Nations peoples in Australia are established in ways that are informed by the voices, interests and expertise of First Nations people.

The Uluru Statement identifies the establishment of a [Makarrata Commission](#) as a key mechanism for resetting relationships and securing a better future for all Australians.

The establishment of a Makarrata Commission can be set up by legislation and would function to oversee treaty and agreement making processes between First Nations peoples and governments and truth telling about our shared histories.

2.3. Truth Factsheet

“... a nation cannot recognise people they do not know or understand. The Aboriginal experience in Australian history is critical to recognition. From pre-contact to invasion, from conciliation to the frontier wars and killings, from compulsory racial segregation to assimilation, from self-determination to the return to neo-paternalism, it is time now to make peace and the Uluru reforms are the road map to peace.” (Professor Megan Davis)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have long called for a comprehensive process of truth telling about Australia’s history that not only encompasses the periods of colonial conflict and dispossession, but also acknowledges the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures. A number of significant commissions have been established and reports released over the last thirty years that encompass truth telling or articulate the need for the nation to develop a shared understanding of our history and its contemporary impacts. These include the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the Bringing Them Home report, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation’s final report, and the Referendum Council’s final report. The recommendations of these reports share a common message that there is a need to understand the truths of the past to avoid repeating the wrongs of the past.

Historical acceptance means that Australians recognise, understand, and accept the wrongs of the past and the impact of these wrongs on First Peoples. It also means employing the truth to generate justice and healing and ensure that the wrongs of the past are never repeated. Truth telling has instigated key developments in policy directions - for example [a report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#) (AIHW) was important for illustrating the lived experience of intergenerational trauma, and ongoing health and socioeconomic impacts of the Stolen Generations.

Truth telling processes reveal Australia’s true history and its impacts today to further healing and reconciliation. Processes may include official apologies, truth and reconciliation commissions, other inquiries or commissions, memorialising and public art, museums, cultural or educational healing centres and institutions, restitution, compensation, among other areas. In Australia there is growing momentum to explore truth telling, including at a local, state and national level.

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in memorials established in major cities and local areas. In documenting massacres that occurred around the country, local communities have come together to mark previously untold and unrecognised parts of our history. Museums and cultural centres are increasingly thinking about how to better take account of our shared history. We have also seen consideration of a national truth telling commission that could seek to uncover an honest and full understanding of colonisation, dispossession, forced removal, and trauma that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been subjected to.

Excerpt above is taken from Reconciliation Australia’s [Truth Telling Symposium Report](#)

2.4. Makaratta Factsheet

Makaratta is a Yolngu word that expresses the idea of two parties coming together after a struggle and healing the divisions of the past. To move forward from conflict and begin the healing process, there must be an acknowledgment of the harm that was done. The idea of Makaratta is to acknowledge that there has been wrongdoing and to seek to make things right.

Makaratta and Treaty

Makaratta has long been proposed as an alternative term to treaty for this nation, yet despite this, neither treaty nor Makaratta have come to fruition. The word and the concept it encompasses were introduced into the wider Australian consciousness in the late 1970's by the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC).

The NAC was established in 1977 to provide a forum for expression of Aboriginal views and was responsible for a Makaratta sub-committee which travelled across Australia consulting Aboriginal peoples on their expectations. They then made several recommendations based on their findings with the intention of entering into an agreement making process with the Australian government.

Makaratta and the Uluru Statement

In 2017, forty years on from the inception of the NAC, the Uluru Statement from the Heart was heard. As well as calling for an Indigenous voice to parliament, the Uluru Statement proposes a Makaratta commission to supervise the process of agreement making between First Nations and non-Indigenous people. A Makaratta commission would also supervise the process of truth-telling about First Nations history.

It is a crucial aspect of the Uluru Statement that recognises the sovereignty and enables the self-determination of First Nations Peoples in striving for a more fair and just nation.

2.5. Engaging with the Statement: *Know the Facts and How to Share*

FAQs

1. What is the Uluru Statement?

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a profound call from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for constitutional change and structural reform in their relationship with Australia - a relationship based on fairness, truth, justice and self-determination, where Indigenous cultures can flourish, and the Australian nation can reach a fuller potential. It is an invitation from First Nations to all Australians “to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future”.

2. Where did the Uluru Statement come from?

In May 2017, First Nations forged a historic consensus, arriving at the creation of the Uluru Statement. This consensus followed a ground-breaking process that engaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Australia through dialogues in 13 regions. Each dialogue was joined by approximately 100 Indigenous representatives: local traditional owners, Indigenous community-based organisations and Indigenous leaders. These dialogues selected representatives to attend the First Nations Constitutional Convention at Uluru that took place in May 2017. At the Convention, an overwhelming consensus of over 250 delegates resolved to establish the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

3. What changes does the Uluru Statement call for?

The Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for three fundamental changes: **Voice, Treaty, Truth**. The first reform is the constitutional enshrinement of a First Nations Voice (Voice). The Voice will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples politically. It will be a permanent institution for expressing First Nations’ views to the parliament and government on important policy decisions affecting their rights. The Uluru Statement from the Heart also calls for a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to be supported by a Makarrata Commission, to supervise processes of agreement-making between governments and First Nations (Treaty), and historical truth-telling (Truth).

What the Uluru Statement calls for provides a clear and practical pathway forward to uphold and protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

4. What is Makarrata?

Makarrata is a Yolngu word from north-eastern Arnhem Land describing ‘a coming together after a struggle, facing the facts of wrongs and living again in peace’, representing the agenda of the Uluru Statement. A Makarrata Commission would have two roles: supervising a process of agreement-making, and overseeing a process of truth-telling.

Agreements between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Australian governments have been negotiated for many years in Australia, such as native title and land rights legislation. The Makarrata Commission would oversee agreement-making processes that express the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, what these views look like when respected and implemented by government, and how parties can reach agreement for action.

A supervised process of ‘truth-telling’ would allow the full extent of past injustices experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be uncovered and revealed. Such a process would allow all Australians to understand our history and assist in moving towards genuine reconciliation.

This process may be similar in form to the inquiry that led to the *Bringing Them Home* report, which revealed the truth surrounding the Stolen Generations. The inquiry involved an extensive program of hearings in every capital city and in many regional centres. In 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised in Parliament for government law and policies that resulted in the Stolen Generations.

5. Why is change necessary?

Reform is needed to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples a greater say and authority over the decisions that affect them.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples only comprise 3.5 per cent of the Australian population. This means that it is difficult for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices to be heard in elections and in Parliament. They have little say over the laws that impact them.

This is particularly problematic, because the federal Parliament has two main sources power to make laws with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: an express power for the Parliament to pass laws on the basis of race and the power to make laws in the territories. Legislation that grants the federal Parliament express power to make laws that govern Aboriginal people have been abused to enforce paternalistic laws against First Nations without their consent or consultation. Possibly the most notorious example is Howard’s Northern Territory Intervention in 2007, or the forced closure of remote Aboriginal communities in 2015.

This is in breach of the right to self-determination that is set out in the Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which recognises that before any new laws or policies affecting Indigenous peoples are adopted, ‘States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent’. Change is necessary to uphold this right.

6. What does the Uluru Statement say about sovereignty?

The Uluru Statement asserts that First Nations sovereignty was never ceded and coexists with the Crown’s sovereignty today. It calls for the ancient sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be recognised through constitutional change. Enshrining a First Nations Voice is an act that recognises First Nations sovereignty. Sovereignty is not undermined nor diminished by this reform.

First Nations in other countries are acknowledged and recognised in colonised nations’ constitutions and legal systems. Canada, the United States and Norway are just several examples. The First Nations in those countries have used the constitutional clauses to support their efforts to gain progress for their people, and this is what the Uluru Statement envisions for Australia.

7. Is a representative voice a new idea?

Consistent throughout the historical struggle against dispossession and discrimination, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have called for First Nations representation in decision making about their own affairs. This is reflected in the unbroken fight for rights and recognition: from the Australian Aborigines League petition to King George V in 1937, the 1938 gathering at the Day of Mourning, the Bark Petitions of 1963, the 1967 referendum, the 1972 Larrakia Petition, the Barunga Statement of 1988, the 1992 Mabo decision overturning terra nullius, the Kalkaringi Statement of 1998, the report on the Social Justice Package by ATSIC

in 1995 and the Kirribilli Statement of 2015 ... there have been consistent calls for a representative voice in decision making, the right to self-determination, treaty, and for the truth to be told about our history.

8. Why a *constitutionally enshrined* Voice?

It is important to note that the Voice to Parliament should be guaranteed by the constitution. Previous [Aboriginal representative bodies](#) (such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission) that had been set up only in laws were easily abolished by successive governments depending on their priorities. The constitutional guarantee aims to provide **stability** and **longevity**, but requires a referendum to change the Constitution. The Uluru Statement from the Heart is deliberately specific on how to implement this voice, as future legislation would set up details, functions, powers and processes.

9. Is there an International precedent for a First Nations Voice?

Other countries use First Nations bodies effectively. First Nations representative structures are common in countries with minority Indigenous populations. Comparable democracies such as New Zealand, Canada, Finland, Sweden and Norway all have First Nations representative structures:

- Canada has the Assembly of First Nations
- New Zealand has the Maori Council which is empowered to act as a consultative and advisory body.
- Norway, Sweden and Finland have Saami Parliaments which act as advisory bodies to government.

More information: https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/2017-07/Report%20to%20the%20Referendum%20Council-%20First%20Nations%20Voice%20Design%20Report_0.pdf

10. How can I support these changes?

Vote yes in the upcoming Referendum! Start instigating dinner table conversations and encouraging your friends and family to vote yes for the enshrinement of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The Uluru Statement calls on the Australian people to walk with First Nations in a people's movement for Voice, Treaty, Truth. Go to this list of suggested actions, resources or ideas at https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/voice_treaty_truth/ and for a comprehensive toolkit to help you organise an event.

Discussion Prompts

Use these to structure an organised discussion around The Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Discussion question 1: What is the Call for Action (what is being asked?) in this statement from First Nations peoples?

Discussion question 2: Was there anything mentioned in the document that was unexpected or something you didn't understand?

Discussion question 3: What do you think the Government should do and how would they go about achieving it?

Discussion question 4: What can I do as a member of the community and as an ally to rally support in this grassroots movement?

3.2. Event Checklist Summary

At Least Six Weeks Out

- Determine the format for your event
- Set the date, time and book a venue for the event
- Gather your event team and key stakeholders together
- Compile an invitation list
- Invite [guest speakers](#), facilitators, or source [video clips of speakers](#) to show in the event
- Design your invitation, event promotion and communication materials
- Book your Welcome to Country
- Are you providing catering? Book catering or make alternate arrangements

Five Weeks Out

- Confirm speakers, facilitators, and or check video excerpts that will be shown at the event
- Create an event schedule or sequence of elements and send this to event stakeholders and guest speakers
- Ensure venue has the information about your tech requirements for the event
- Send an email to Reconciliation NSW regarding your event so we can support with event promotion

Four Weeks Out

- Continue event promotions on social media and through your networks and add information about the confirmed speakers etc., where relevant

Three Weeks Out

- Where relevant, [create a media release](#) and contact local media and share about your event
- If your special guest speakers have their own following on social media encourage them to share your event

Two Weeks Out

- If relevant follow up with local media
- Ensure that your guest speakers, Aunty/Uncle doing the Welcome, VIPs etc have all the information they need (arrival time, parking, any updates to the event schedule)

One Week Out

- Send out an email/Facebook reminder of your event one week and one day prior to the event

Day of Event

- Event set up, final tech checks (make sure all links still work)
- Have sign-up sheets to follow up with your event attendees after
- Take plenty of photos at your event and share them through your social media channels (during and post the event)
- Enjoy your event!

Post Event

- Send thank yous & follow ups on how event attendees can continue to stay connected and take action

3.3. Event Checklist

Pre event	Action/Date
<p>Determine event details</p> <p>What kind of event is it? Morning tea, workshop, panel discussion etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do you need a budget for the event? ● Confirm the date, time, venue ● Would you like to invite special guest speakers to present at your event? ● Are there any VIPs and community members you'd like to invite to the event, you may need to confirm their availability prior to determining the date of your event ● If you are planning to show any videos or other digital content at your event arrange tech tests to ensure that your technology and set up is working 	
<p>Welcome / Acknowledgement of Country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connect with your local Aboriginal Land Council and book in a Welcome to Country or have someone do an acknowledgment of Country ● See the Welcome to Country Information Sheet 	
<p>Event format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine the schedule for your event ● Event format option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitator/ MC: Event introduction ○ Welcome to Country ○ Guest speaker presentation/video ○ Read the Uluru Statement and/or discuss what it calls for ○ Depending on the format of the event engage in a group discussion/ Q&A session / sharing session about why this is important to participants ○ Morning tea/ lunch / afternoon tea served ○ Informal networking and conversations ○ Next steps and the call to action 	
<p>Event invitations, promotions and communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invitations: Email, mail, Facebook invite your target audience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remember to include the event details and any rsvp and or registration information in the invitation. ○ Do event participants need to bring anything with them? ○ If it's a public event remember to share your event with Reconciliation NSW so that we can help to promote your event on our social media channels remember to provide us with all the relevant information as outlined in the social media guide. ● Registration, RSVPs and online bookings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It's important to keep track of who attends your events so that you can send event follow ups and track the numbers of people who attend your events ○ It's easy to create an event registration process through platforms like Eventbrite. They make it easy to track registrations, gather contact information for attendees, creates a guest list and database for post event follow ups. ● Promotions: Flyers, posters and reminders 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Add your logo and event details to the event template poster ○ Send out a reminder email just prior to the event - or use the Eventbrite reminder 	
<p>Catering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hire a local Aboriginal owned catering company to cater your event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use Supply Nation ● Alternatively, if you have a limited budget for your event providing in house coffee, tea and refreshments also work well. Guests could also bring a plate. 	
Event	Notes
<p>Event set up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Room set up, final tech tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set up your room. ○ Where is the focal point? Is it a discussion circle, theatre style or a horseshoe? Do you need desks, chairs, microphones, carafes of water, stationary? ○ If you are showing a video – test your equipment, volume, house lights etc ○ Do you need to display anything? Plan the décor/flowers tableware if necessary. ○ Remember to reserve seats for speakers/vips ○ Locate and ensure signage of amenities ● Arrival and sign in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure your guests sign in, and possibly sign off permission to photograph. ○ Greet important guests/speakers and orient them as to how the event will go, where they will be seated etc. 	
<p>Social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assign staff and/or volunteers to support with capturing content for social media during the event ○ Sharing content during the course of the event can be a great way to extend the audience engaging with your event ○ You may like to share particular hashtags for the event, so that event attendees can assist with the sharing of the event on social media channels 	
Post event	Notes
<p>Send thank yous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Email attendees/speakers/VIPs thanks and summarise the outcomes of the event – number of attendees, highlight of the event etc 	
<p>Share on social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Similarly summarise the outcomes of the event – number of attendees, highlight of the event and post on social media 	
<p>Event debrief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have a meeting to discuss what worked 	
Congratulations and thank you for your support!	

3.4. Welcome to Country: A guide

The importance of including a Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of any event or meeting or even at the beginning of a day at school or work is an act of reconciliation in and of itself. It is a simple way of acknowledging and demonstrating an understanding of the complex relationship of living on and in the Country of the oldest continuous living cultures in the world.

The genuine and heartfelt practice of Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement to Country is a custom that allows truth telling to take place and demonstrates an understanding that the land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have experienced significant exclusion from Australian society for many years. Because of this, many non-Indigenous Australians have not had the opportunity to learn about, and celebrate, the rich cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This contributes to a disparity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians that persists today. Acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in events is one part of ending this exclusion. It recognises the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first custodians of this land and, importantly, promotes awareness of the history and culture of Indigenous peoples. This increased awareness will help us create a more united Australia, that celebrates and embraces First Australians. It promotes an ongoing connection to place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and shows respect for Traditional Owners and recognises that there are over 200 different First Nations groups and languages in Australia. Each should be celebrated for its own significance.

A **Welcome to Country** is a ceremony performed by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elders, or Traditional Owners who have been given permission to welcome visitors onto their traditional land. Protocols for welcoming visitors to Country have been part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years. This welcome can take the form of a speech (sometimes in traditional language) or a performance (including smoking ceremony, singing and/or dancing). Whether spoken or performed, the aim of the ceremony is to acknowledge the traditional custodians and welcome the wider community. The Elder (or a representative) will give their blessing to the event, function, meeting or occasion. In response, the host (or key speaker) will acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by paying respects to Elders (past, present and emerging).

An **Acknowledgement of Country** is where other people acknowledge and show respect for the traditional custodians of the land on which the event is taking place. Such an acknowledgement of Country can be used exclusively if an Elder or other appropriate member of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities is not available to perform a Welcome to Country. Incorporating a welcome or acknowledgement protocol into official meetings and events recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and custodians of their land. It promotes an awareness of the past and continuing connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to the land, sea, sky and waterways. An Acknowledgement of Country can be performed by an

Indigenous or non-Indigenous person and is generally offered at the beginning of a meeting, speech or formal occasion.

Country

In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, the meaning of Country is more than just ownership or connection to land, as Professor Mick Dodson explains:

“When we talk about traditional ‘Country’...we mean something beyond the dictionary definition of the word. For Aboriginal Australians...we might mean homeland, or tribal or clan area and we might mean more than just a place on the map. For us, Country is a word for all the values, places, resources, stories and cultural obligations associated with that area and its features. It describes the entirety of our ancestral domains. While they may all no longer necessarily be the title-holders to land, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are still connected to the Country of their ancestors and most consider themselves the custodians or caretakers of their land.”

Sample Acknowledgement of Country

Hello, my name is (insert name) and I am from (suburb, job title – optional)

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today, the (insert First Nation) peoples. I would like to pay my respects to Elders past and present. I would like to acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today. The land we are on now, the land we live, work, breath, eat and sleep; always was and always will be Aboriginal Land.

Practical information

- Inviting an Elder or Community member to do a Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgment of Country should be planned well in advance and may incur a fee.
- It is always wise and appropriate to seek assistance if you are not sure what Country you are on. Local Reconciliation groups, Local Government and Local Aboriginal Land Councils are all good sources of information if you need assistance.
- For information about what Country you are meeting on and details to contact you can reach out to www.reconciliationnsw.org.au or New South Wales Local Aboriginal Land Councils on <http://alc.org.au>

3.5. Ideas for speakers and panellists to host your own event

Depending on your event you may wish to engage a speaker or provide a panel discussion and perhaps include a facilitator or MC.

If you are hosting a smaller event or even as part of a larger event it's a good idea to showcase one of the EXPERT videos from our list supplied. These range from explainers about the Uluru Statement from the Heart to explorations of Truth Telling that can help inform and engage an audience.

Speakers, panellists and videos all provide a more engaging point of view to begin your own conversations and can be used as a catalyst for discussion and deepening an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples history, culture, beliefs and opinions.

Mabo Oration 2021



Image: Professor Megan Davis' Mabo Oration 2021 discussing the importance of taking advantage of the opportunity before us. Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW.

Much has happened since 2017 when the Uluru Statement was gifted to the Australian people. [There are a growing number of resources available](#) to help you introduce and explain the Uluru Statement and its reforms.

A perfect starting place is [Professor Megan Davis' Mabo Oration for 2021](#). Professor Davis has been at the forefront of constitutional reform for Indigenous peoples for the past decade, first having served on the Expert Panel to Recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples that reported in 2012 and most recently leading the work of the Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW and the Uluru Dialogue. Professor Davis led the team that designed and ran the regional dialogues and the First Nations Constitutional Convention in 2017 that led to the Uluru Statement.

Professor Davis' Mabo Oration explains in great detail the proposed Uluru Statement reforms and the importance of taking advantage of the opportunity we have before us to realising a First Nations Voice to Parliament protected by the Constitution. You can find the Mabo Oration here:

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/558805140>

Contacting Speakers

There are a number of key figures who can be approached to lead a discussion on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. However, they are often extremely busy and hard to get hold of. The [Uluru Dialogues Team](#) and the [Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW](#) (ilc@unsw.edu.au) may be able to help put you in contact with an Uluru Dialogue member for your event. [From the Heart](#) may also be able to help you.

We also recommend that you connect with your Local Aboriginal Land Council, Local Reconciliation Group and even your Local Council to discuss possible speakers for your event. You may also wish to get in touch with your local University's Indigenous Departments as they too have speakers who may be willing to attend a community or workplace event.

Other sources

There are a wealth of educational videos, articles and books in our [Resource Kit](#) that you can watch, read and share with your networks to help encourage others to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart. These include videos that explain the different reforms of Voice, Treaty and Truth to videos that analyse what the Voice may look like and the responses of the Australian community.



(Your Name) invites you to (Event Name)

When

Where

Additional details, Speakers etc

RSVP details

Consent for Use of Photographs and Video

I, the undersigned, consent to my image being taken and used and reproduced in any format. I understand that my image may be used for the purposes of display, publicity and in promotional materials for [insert your organisation/event] and its photographer(s) / videographer(s). I understand that any intellectual property, including copyright and image

Surname	First Name	Email	Organisation	Signature	Consent to use photos or video	Receive info from us
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Media Release Template

[INSERT DATE PUBLISHED]

[INSERT NAME OF ORGANISATION OR COMMUNITY GROUP]

WE ARE HOSTING AN EVENT SUPPORTING THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Our community group will be hosting an event to show and build support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a First Nations Voice to Parliament protected by the Constitution.

Details of event

When: [insert details here]

Where: [insert details here]

Purpose of event: [insert details here]

What is the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

In May 2017, First Nations forged a historic consensus around the Uluru Statement. This consensus followed a ground-breaking process of engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from across Australia through deliberative dialogues in 13 regions.

The Uluru Statement calls for three fundamental changes: Voice, Treaty, Truth. The first reform is the constitutional enshrinement of a First Nations Voice. The Voice will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples politically. It will be a permanent institution for expressing First Nations' views to the parliament and government on important policy decisions affecting their rights.

Before the 2023/23 Financial Year, a referendum will be held where all Australians will vote on the principle of changing the constitution to include a First Nations voice.

Since the Uluru Statement from the Heart was gifted to the Australian people in 2017, support has grown immensely. Australians from all walks of life have accepted the invitation of the Uluru Statement in full to walk together for a better future.

Join us as we continue to build momentum for this important reform to ensure our opportunity for change is not wasted.

RSVP to: [insert details here]

[INSERT CONTACT DETAILS OF ORGANISATION OR COMMUNITY GROUP]

3.7. Social Media Kit

Introduction

Social media is a time and cost-effective way of reaching a range of different people. Two platforms commonly used as part of an advocacy strategy are Twitter and Facebook.

Twitter

Twitter has a number of functions

1. Tweets created by the user
2. Retweets – retweeting another person tweet on your page
3. Quote retweets - allows you to share another person’s tweet to your page and add a comment
4. Comment on someone else’s tweet

1. Tweets created by the user



Image 1 Twitter post example

Text

- The maximum tweet length is 280 characters
- Tweets need to be able to stand alone without contextual information
- Can use abbreviate text such as “pp!” for people and “abt” for about (never use ATSI for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)

Handles

- Handles act as people’s names on Twitter
- Handles begin with “@”
- It is like an address, it is how you search for people

Hashtags

- Are a way of finding tweets on the same topic
- Hashtags begin with “#”
- In all tweets about the Uluru Statement use #UluruStatement

Emoticons

- Allow you to share an emotion without text
- The add a richness to tweets
- Add visual interest

Image

- Tweets with photos or videos get more attention
- Images need to be interesting but not perfect
- Links automatically include an image. You can use the automated image or delete the thumbnail and add your own.

2. Retweets – retweeting another person tweet on your page



Image 2 Retweeting someone elses post example

- To retweet hit the button under the arrow which says retweet without adding a comment
- Share other people’s tweets that are supportive

3. Quote retweets - allows you to share another person’s tweet to your page and add a comment



Figure 1 Quote retweet example

- To quote retweet hit the button under the arrow which says retweet and add a comment

4. Comment on someone else's tweet

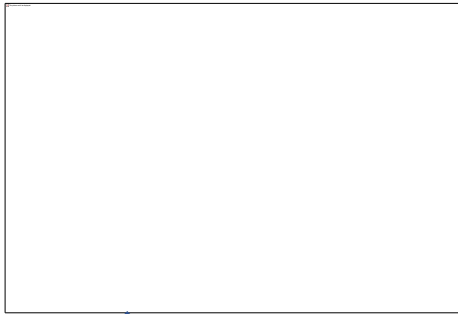
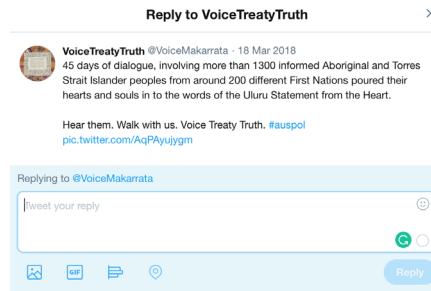


Image 3 Commenting on a post example



- Comments can be used to engage in conversation about the tweet you are commenting on
- Comments do not show up on your page
- Click the “thought bubble”
- Type your comment
- Hashtags can be used in your comments

Facebook

Facebook has a number of features such as:

1. Posts
2. Comments
3. Share
4. Likes
5. Events
6. Applying a frame

1. Post

International Towers
July 2 at 3:42 PM · 🌐

Like Page

The Uluru Statement from the Heart - what does it really mean? How can corporate Australia support these important reforms?

Join us 4 July from 5:30pm on Facebook live on our profile page, as our expert panel explores this important topic: Professor Megan Davis, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous UNSW, and esteemed Board Directors Sam Mostyn and Nicola Wakefield-Evans #UluruStatement #Indigenous #Reconciliation <http://bit.ly/328fMOP> #NAIDOC #NAIDOC2019 #NAIDOCWeek #NAIDOCWeek2019 #VoiceTreatyTruth

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART
We published at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, a historic document that sets out the path forward for the world's oldest continuous democracy.

INTERNATIONALTOWERS.COM

Uluru Statement from the Heart - how can we help progress it?

307 25 Comments 66 Shares

Like Comment Share

Image 4 Facebook post example

Text

- There is no maximum length
- Use spaces between paragraphs to make it easier to read
- Include links whenever possible

Hashtags

- Are a way of finding posts on the same topic
- Hashtags begin with “#”
- In all posts about the Uluru Statement use #UluruStatement

Image

- Posts with photos or videos get more attention
- Images need to be interesting but not perfect
- Links automatically include an image. You can use the automated image or delete the thumbnail and add your own.

Emoticons

- Allow you to share an emotion without text
- The add a richness to posts
- Add visual interest


2. Comments

- People will comment on your post. Unless they ask you a direct question there is no need to respond.
- If someone leaves a racist or highly inappropriate comments, a page moderator can hide it from the page and you can block the person.
- Information on hiding a page can be found here:
<https://www.facebook.com/help/297845860255949>
- Information on blocking a person can be found here:
<https://www.facebook.com/help/185897171460026?helpref=related>

3. Sharing a post

- You can share a post from another account that is appropriate for your page.
- You can share it with or without a comment.

4. Likes

- People and pages can like your post.
- You can invite people to like your page (not a personal account) by clicking on the like images indicated by the . See image 5.

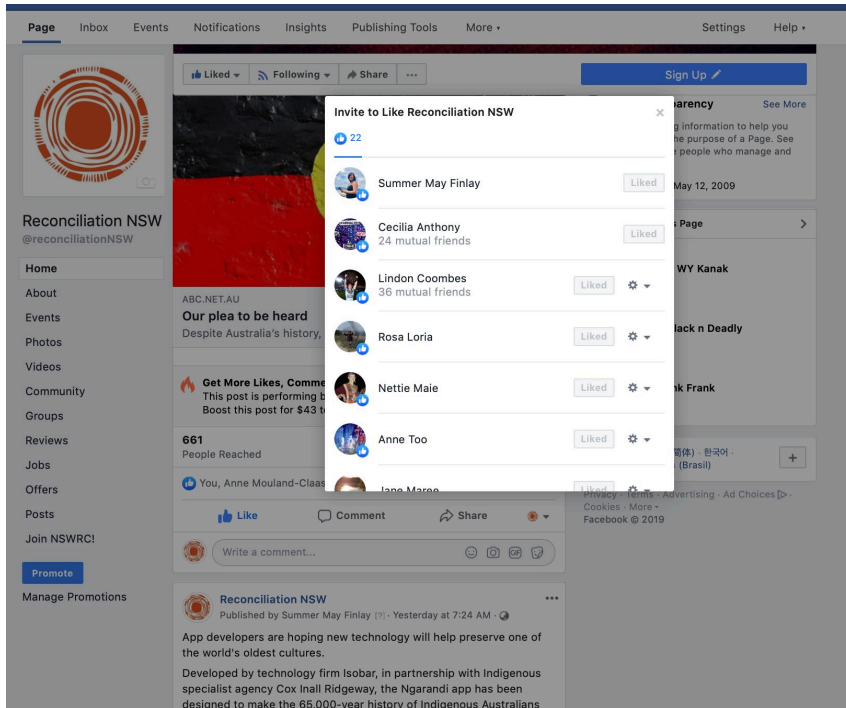


Image 5 Invite to Like page example

5. Creating an event

- Facebook allows you to create an event. Image below shows the details which can be included in event post.
- Keep the information short and concise.

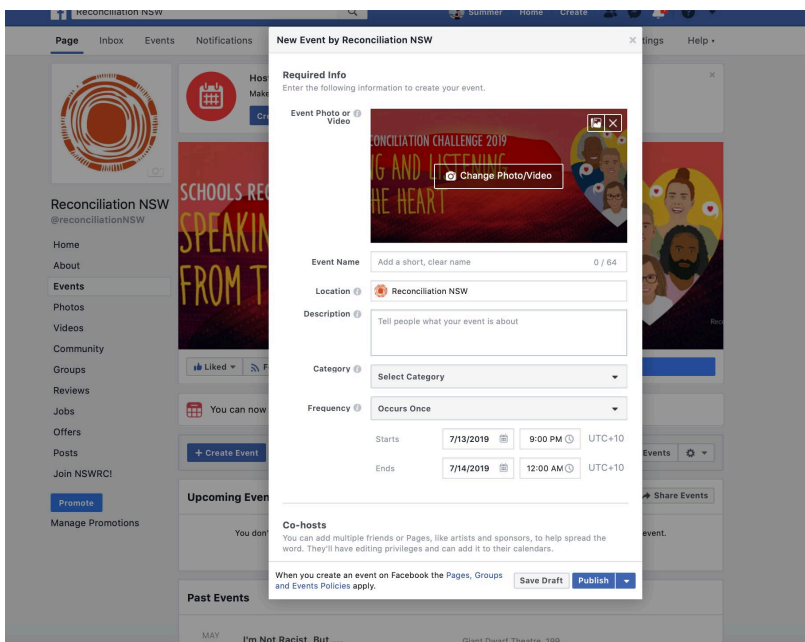


Image 6 Creating an event example

6. Applying a frame

- Facebook allows you to apply a frame over a Facebook profile picture.
- A frame is a photo overlay.
- You can read more about applying a frame here:
https://www.facebook.com/help/1476775522631878?helpref=faq_content
- See image 7 for an example

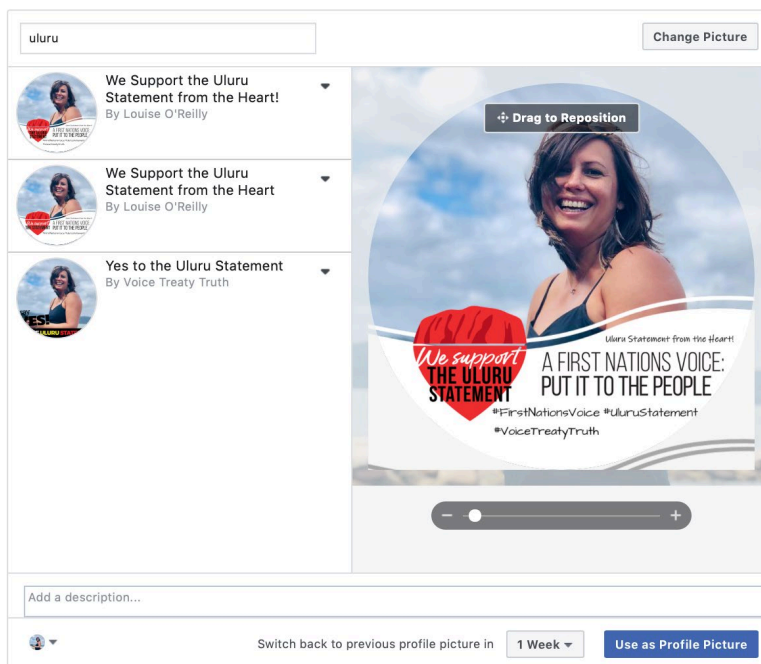


Image 7 Frame example

Draft posts

The Uluru Statement calls for three things:

- Voice
- Treaty
- Truth

It's an important document for Indigenous people. Get to know it!

[https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/2017-](https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/2017-05/Uluru_Statement_From_The_Heart_0.PDF)

[05/Uluru_Statement_From_The_Heart_0.PDF](https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/2017-05/Uluru_Statement_From_The_Heart_0.PDF)

#UluruStatement #auspol @NSWRC

The Uluru Statement calls for a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution as a mechanism for First Australians to participate actively in our democracy to meet their pressing & unmet need.

<https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/constitutional-reform/voice/>

#UluruStatement @NSWRC

The Uluru Statement calls for a Treaty. Aust is the only Commonwealth nation without a treaty with its First Peoples. A treaty would be a legally binding agreement between the government & Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander ppls.

<https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/constitutional-reform/treaty/>

#UluruStatement @NSWRC

Dean Parkin believes The Uluru Statement from The Heart is an idea whose time has come. Find out more by watching his TEDxCanberra talk.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xB-31jD4XcA>

#UluruStatement #auspol @NSWRC

To show your support for the Uluru Statement, head to the Reconciliation NSW Uluru Statement page & for suggested actions, resources and ideas , and download posters and logos.

<https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/constitutional-reform/>

#UluruStatement #auspol @NSWRC

[@tommayor11](#), a champion and advocate for the Uluru Statement has written a book about the Uluru Statement featuring prominent & respected elders.

It will be available in stores & online from the 1st of October 2019.

Buy it. Gift it. Share it.

#UluruStatement #auspol @NSWRC

I support the Uluru Statement

I encourage you to read it

Please retweet this post if you also support the statement.

#UluruStatement #auspol @NSWRC

[Include Uluru Statement image]



The Uluru Statement is the first time First Nations have had a truly national process to determine tangible and specific proposals for change. The line was drawn in the red sand of Uluru and we want Voice Treaty Truth.



This Social Media Kit was prepared by Summer Finlay.



4.1. Conversation Guide

Aim

This conversation guide provides the key messaging of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, to help build support for a ‘yes’ outcome in the upcoming Referendum to enshrine an Indigenous Voice in the Constitution.

The guide is designed to help you educate members of the public to raise awareness and build understanding about the importance of what the Uluru Statement is and what it is asking for – Voice, Treaty and Truth.

How your conversations can...

- **Be Informative** – Familiarise yourself with the key messaging and details of the Uluru Statement. This is an opportunity to answer questions, clarify possible confusion, debunk myths and address misinformation.
- **Encourage Action** – Based on the interaction you have, you can encourage more people to vote yes in the Referendum and propose actions they can take to further support and grow the movement to progress First Nations rights.
- **Be Respectful** – There are diverse opinions and attitudes, it is a sign of a healthy democracy. Respect diversity and experiences.

Conversation Guide: Vote YES for the Uluru Statement

Who we're talking to	General members of the public
Priority Ask	Vote yes in the referendum to enshrine an Indigenous Voice in the Constitution
Step up asks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Start conversations with friends and family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A conversation between people who trust each other is 3-10 times more effective than conversations between strangers.¹ ○ Talk to your friends, and get your friends to talk to their friends. ○ Invite everyone you know who cares about equality, First Nations rights and justice into this process 2) Support the Uluru Statement in your workplace 3) Broaden your advocacy by joining groups (by joining a group (e.g. the Uluru Youth Network, From the

¹ Red Wine and Blue, “Troublemaker training”, Heather Cox Richardson, published Sep 2022, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDyw88YblOg&ab_channel=RedWineandBlue

	<p>Heart, a Local Reconciliation Group, the Voice from the Heart Alliance, a University student group, etc.)</p>
--	--

4.2. Become familiar with a [Strategic Advocacy Framework](#)²:

<p>The Problem</p> <p>What is the problem with the current system? Why is policy reform needed?</p>	<p>First Nations people don't have enough of a say in matters that affect them.</p>
<p>Solution</p> <p>What reform is necessary to solve the problem?</p>	<p>It is essential that First Nations people have a say in the policy matters that affect their lives. This is the goal of a First Nations Voice to parliament embedded in the Constitution.</p> <p>The Voice will be an independent, representative advisory body for First Nations people. It will provide a permanent means to advise the Australian Parliament and Government on the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on matters that affect them.</p> <p>It's a Fair go for Indigenous Australians</p> <p>It's Practical: our best chance to close the gap</p> <p>It's a Unifying Moment for all Australians</p>
<p>Evidence</p> <p>What evidence do you have that the Voice is an effective solution to the problem?</p>	<p>How does the lack of a First Nations Voice in Parliament affect their lived experience?</p> <p>Without enough of a say over the matters that affect them, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are subject to laws, policies and institutions that do not account for, or deeply understand, the lived experience of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture

² "Advocacy Toolkit," NSW Council Of Social Service (NCOSS), 2021, p. 2-3, https://www.ncoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NCOSS_Advocacy-Toolkit_2021.pdf



- Spirituality and connections:
 - Community & Family
 - Links to Country
 - Drawing strength from Country
 - Totems
 - Kinship
- Holistic understandings of health
- Histories of trauma
- Differences in language and non-Western understandings of the world

How will the Voice impact this?

- The Voice is about empowering self-determination, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have ‘an ongoing progress of choice’ over their own social, cultural and economic needs³.
- The Voice will allow Indigenous Australians to provide advice to Parliament on matters relating to them.
- The Voice is a mechanism for Indigenous guidance over Indigenous matters. It supports self-determination.

What evidence is there that proves self-determination works?

Self-determination "has been prescribed as being necessary for Aboriginal people to overcome their institutionalised disadvantage"⁴ for decades.

This is because:

- “It ensures Aboriginal peoples’ rights to culture are respected and upheld.”⁵

³ “Right to self-determination”, Australian Human Rights Commission, 2023, <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/rights-and-freedoms/right-self-determination#:~:text=Self%20determination%20is%20an%20'on,social%2C%20cultural%20and%20economic%20needs>.

⁴ What is Aboriginal self-determination?” Victorian Public Sector Commission, June 28, 2022, <https://vpssc.vic.gov.au/workforce-programs/aboriginal-cultural-capability-toolkit/aboriginal-self-determination/>

⁵ Victorian Public, “What is Aboriginal self-determination?”, n.p.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It involves Aboriginal people in decision making”⁶ “Without self-determination it is not possible for Indigenous Australians to fully overcome the legacy of colonisation and dispossession.”⁷
<p>How do we achieve this solution?</p> <p>Who has the power to bring about this change?</p>	<p><u>You do,</u> with your vote in the Referendum.</p> <p>To alter the Constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and enshrine their Voice to become an advisory panel to Parliament, two things must happen:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A majority of Australians in Australia must vote ‘yes’ 2) There must be a majority of ‘yes’ votes in at least two thirds of states

4.3. Script

Now that you’ve become familiar with the foundations for strategic advocacy, it’s time to start the conversation.

Stage 1: Politely initiate an interaction with a key phrase or sentence that compels people into the conversation and quickly lets them know what you want to talk about

"Hello have you heard about the Uluru Statement?"

“Do you know how you will vote in the upcoming referendum for an Indigenous voice to parliament?”

Stage 2: Introduce yourself and the Uluru Statement from the Heart

If they have heard about the Uluru Statement:

Discuss the key objectives the Uluru Statement seeks to achieve and whether they support these objectives.

“That’s great you’ve heard of it! I’m with a group of volunteers talking to people about how they can vote yes in the Referendum to demonstrate their support for equality and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples...”

⁶ Victorian Public, “What is Aboriginal self-determination?”

⁷ Victorian Public, “What is Aboriginal self-determination?”



Note: The person may already support the Uluru Statement, have a story to share, and/or have specific actions that they are already taking. Make sure you listen if they have something to contribute prior to moving to **Stage 5** to propose an action.

If they have not heard about the Uluru Statement:

Provide the person with a brief introduction and refer them to your resources, including key points from the Uluru Statement, and factsheets.

“Here is a copy of the Uluru Statement with further information.”

“The Uluru Statement from the Heart came from an unprecedented national Indigenous dialogue to determine how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples want to be recognised in the Constitution.”

“It proposes to change the constitution to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are consulted about decisions made about them.”

Work towards taking them to stage 5: Propose an action

Stage 3: If the reaction of the person is supportive bring the conversation to stage 5 and propose an action

Stage 4: Tips on managing difficult questions and/or negative responses

- If someone has a negative response, be sure to take care of your own wellbeing first. If you need to refer them to someone else in the team, then that is fine.
- If you feel comfortable continuing to engage with the person, do so respectfully. Listen to what the person wants to share and respond in ways that make the person feel heard, but also ensure that any necessary clarifications are made.
- Stick to the key messaging e.g. *“it is essential that First Nations people have a say in the policy matters that affect their lives. This is the goal of a First Nations Voice to parliament embedded in the Constitution”*.

Stage 5: Propose an action

Actions from safe to brave:

- 1) Will you commit to voting yes in a Referendum?
- 2) Will you support this further and talk to your friends and family about the Uluru Statement, and encourage them to vote yes in the Referendum?
- 3) [Support the Uluru Statement in your workplace](#)

- 4) Broaden your advocacy by joining groups (by joining a group (e.g. the [Uluru Youth Network](#), [From the Heart](#), a [Local Reconciliation Group](#), the [Voice from the Heart Alliance](#), a University student group, etc.)

Stage 6: If they are supportive, propose for them to stay connected with the Uluru Dialogues Team, From the Heart and Reconciliation NSW, by following them on social media and signing up to their newsletters.

Note: It's important to be efficient and effective in our community engagements so that we can have quality interactions and reach as many people as possible.

4.4. Conversation tips

Find common ground

Finding common ground with friends/neighbours/people who are perhaps on the fence about enshrining an Indigenous Voice in the Constitution or leaning towards a no is important for having fruitful and respectful discussion.

Reflect on: Why do you personally care about the Uluru Statement? Why are you telling people this? This can lead to connecting with people based on common values. For example:

- We all want Australia to be a country that supports equality.
- Australia's founding document should be reflective of our shared and connected histories and identities, which includes more than 80,000 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.
- The Voice is about strengthening our democracy through enhanced participation.
- Recognising Australia's First Peoples and giving them a Voice supports justice and equality.
- We are one of few comparable democracies that still haven't recognised First Nations peoples in national legislation. Countries such as New Zealand, Canada, Finland, Sweden and Norway all have First Nations representative structures.
- Australia should rectify the wrongs of our colonial history by giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a say in matters that affect them.

Stay focussed

- Don't engage with topics that people may raise that are completely unrelated.

The opposition

- People who are absolutely sure on their 'no' position or exhibit racist ways of thinking are not worth the time!

4.5. Key information for campaigning

The detail? Know your key information when campaigning:

Three components of the Uluru Statement



Voice refers to a First Nations Voice, guaranteed by the Constitution, to provide a permanent platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices to be heard by the Parliament of the day.



A **Treaty** is an agreement between First Nations peoples and Australian Governments that aims to set in motion both national acknowledgement of, and legal protection for, First Nations rights and interests.



Undertaking a formalised process of **Truth** telling to acknowledge Australia's history of colonial conflict, dispossession and the strength and resilience of First Nations peoples and cultures.

The Referendum Working Group's set of principles for the Voice:

The Voice is a body that will:

- 1) Provide independent advice to Parliament and Government
- 2) Be chosen by First Nations people based on the wishes of local communities
- 3) Be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- 4) Be empowering, community led, inclusive, respectful, culturally informed and gender balanced, and includes youth
- 5) Be accountable and transparent
- 6) Work alongside existing organisations and traditional structures.
- 7) The Voice will not have a program delivery function, or a veto power.
- 8) The structure and role of the Voice would be decided by Parliament through legislation, with members to be chosen by First Nations people.

Responding to key questions

See our [Debunking Myths and Addressing Misinformation](#) factsheet to see how you can address misleading information if people bring it up with you.

4.6. Debunking myths and addressing misinformation

Knowing how to address misinformation and arguments from all sides of politics in conversations about the Voice is an important part of public education.

Whether intentional or otherwise, there has been much misleading information put out into the public domain, confusing citizens. Let's debunk and unpack the misinformation fruitfully, together.

“There's no detail”

The 2021 [Final Report to the Australian Government on the Indigenous Voice Co-design Process](#) is a 260 page report that makes significant recommendations for the implementation of the Voice. It is the result of extensive consultation with First Nations peoples and communities in urban, regional and remote Australia. The proposed Indigenous Voice detailed is an integrated system of 35 Local and Regional Voices, and an overarching National Voice. Local & Regional Voices would be community-led, community-designed and community-run to set strategic directions to improve policy, program and service delivery outcomes that affect them. The National Voice will comprise 24 members who will be selected by Local & Regional Voices. The Voice would advise on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples social, spiritual and economic wellbeing to ensure their perspectives are considered throughout policy and legislation development. Representatives will include specific representation for Torres Strait Islanders and remote communities due to their unique needs.

The Referendum Working Group has recommended a set of principles for the Voice:

The Voice is a body that will:

- 1) Provide independent advice to Parliament and Government
- 2) Be chosen by First Nations people based on the wishes of local communities
- 3) Be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- 4) Be empowering, community led, inclusive, respectful, culturally informed and gender balanced, and includes youth
- 5) Be accountable and transparent
- 6) Work alongside existing organisations and traditional structures.
- 7) The Voice will not have a program delivery function, or a veto power.
- 8) The structure and role of the Voice would be decided by Parliament through legislation, with members to be chosen by First Nations people.

There's also more detail coming

Before a referendum is held both houses of a Commonwealth Parliament must pass legislation outlining the proposed changes to the Constitution.¹ So before Australians vote on the Referendum, there will be clear legislation drafted. The referendum must then be held no sooner than two months and no later than six months after the legislation is passed by Parliament.

“Treaty first, vote no to the Voice”

There is a small movement that is emphasising the importance of a Treaty over a Voice to Parliament.

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A [Treaty](#) is an essential next step in acknowledging and giving legal effect to the historical and contemporary cultural rights and interests of First Nations peoples, which is why the Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for a Treaty as well as a Voice to Parliament, and a national process of Truth-telling. A Treaty and a Voice to Parliament are not mutually exclusive, and they can both happen in parallel. State-based Treaty legislation and processes have commenced in [Queensland](#), [Victoria](#), and the NSW Labor government has committed to a Treaty if they are successful in the March 2023 NSW election.

This argument lacks clarity and has the potential to mislead those that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to vote no. However, the legislation and political conversations that need to happen for Treaties at all levels can and should continue to progress in parallel to Voice and Truth-telling activities called for in the Uluru Statement. The Voice is what's on the table before us now. “The Voice proposal is a [once-in-a-lifetime opportunity](#) for Australia to fill a gaping hole in our Constitution – to recognise our first history and the first peoples who bear it and the painful legacy of its collision with the second history of colonisation.”² Those who support a treaty and believe it is a stronger mechanism for self-determination than a Voice to Parliament should be empowered in that opinion, however there is nothing to lose from voting ‘yes’ in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to Constitutionally enshrine an Indigenous Voice in the Constitution. Also, as has been seen in similar democracies like the United States, treaties can be broken, and all faith should not be put into one piece of legislation. Both Constitutional recognition and a treaty will be stronger in conjunction with one another. We will not get another

¹ “Referendums Overview,” Australian Electoral Commission, Updated 6 June 2011, https://www.aec.gov.au/Elections/referendums/Referendums_Overview.htm

² Robert French & Geoffrey Lindell, “Voice is low risk but high return”, *Financial Review*, Feb 4 2023, <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/voice-is-low-risk-but-high-return-20230201-p5ch8e>

opportunity for a Referendum for a long time (if ever), so let's harness it, whilst also progressing conversations and legislation for treaties, which the Uluru Statement emphasises.

“The Voice won't represent local communities”

There is some fear within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that the Voice won't represent local issues and local communities.

The [Indigenous Voice Co-Design Report](#) recommended the Voice to be an integrated system of 35 Local and Regional Voices, with an overarching National Voice. Local & Regional Voices would be community-led, community-designed and community-run to set strategic directions to improve policy, program and service delivery outcomes that affect them. This ensures that local communities will have representation on local issues. The National Voice will comprise 24 members who will be selected by Local & Regional Voices.

Representatives will include specific representation for Torres Strait Islanders and remote communities due to their unique needs.

“There's already enough First Nations people in Parliament”

There has been some rhetoric that there are already elected First Nations members of parliament, so why is a referendum needed to embed an Indigenous voice?

This argument is not based on factual information regarding what the role of an elected member of parliament is. In a democracy, parliamentary representatives are elected by the people in their electorate. These people are united by geographical location, not by culture or identity. The elected members represent their constituents within their electorate and often sit within a political party that further determines the political decisions they make. They cannot be expected to represent the large and diverse population of First Nations Peoples across the country. At present, Australia's electoral design does not ensure special representation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, nor does it have mechanisms to achieve what the Uluru Statement from the Heart seeks.

“The Voice will divide Australia”

The Voice is about empowering self-determination, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have 'an ongoing progress of choice'³ over their own social, cultural and

³ Right to self-determination”, Australian Human Rights Commission, 2023, <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/rights-and-freedoms/right-self-determination#:~:text=Self%20determination%20is%20an%20'on,social%2C%20cultural%20and%20economic%20needs>.

economic needs. This does not separate Indigenous people from the rest of Australia but provides a mechanism for **Indigenous guidance** over **Indigenous matters**.

It is important to acknowledge the distinct position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the first peoples of this continent. Their cultures, histories and contributions are a unique asset to our nation. At present the gap in life outcomes between First Nations peoples and their non-Indigenous counter parts is what is dividing Australia. The generous invitation to walk with First Nations Peoples in creating a better future is what will unite us.

“The Voice won’t help First Nations communities”

As the [Uluru Dialogues Team write](#) “A Voice will mean the Government will have better quality information about First Nations communities and issues, delivered directly by a body of First Nations representatives. Detailed and nuanced information from communities themselves will result in better quality laws and policies. This will mean resource allocation is more accurately targeted. Better laws mean improved outcomes – across all metrics, including health, housing, criminal justice and education.”⁴ It’s practical for Closing the Gap.

“The Voice isn’t what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want”

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold diverse opinions, and some First Nations peoples have expressed that they do not want the Voice. This [Sydney Morning Herald article](#) captures the diversity of those opinions well. [As the Uluru Dialogues Team write](#), the Uluru Statement was the result of “First Nations represented in the First Nations Regional Dialogues and the national convention. It was an act of self-determination. Twelve large meetings, or Dialogues, took place across Australia and culminated in a National Convention at Uluru, with over 250 delegates representing those vast Dialogues and communities. Together, those delegates conceptualised, wrote and signed the Uluru Statement, agreeing to its components and reforms.”⁵

⁴ “FAQs”, The Uluru Statement, January 2023, <https://ulurustatement.org/education/faqs/>

⁵ “FAQs”, The Uluru Statement, January 2023, <https://ulurustatement.org/education/faqs/>

5.1. Uluru Statement from the Heart Training & Videos

Training Resources

<https://www.fromtheheart.com.au/education/#/>

This short online course on Indigenous Constitutional Recognition through a Voice is by From the Heart and the Uluru Statement Team. It is a 15 – 20 minute learning journey to explore the proposed reforms and what is meant by Constitutional Recognition. This resource includes videos and interactive questions. [Start course.](#)

Edmund Rice Centre | Discussion Kit

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/erc/pages/1471/attachments/original/1673184524/Uluru_Discussion_Kit.pdf?1673184524

Video resources

There are a wealth of educational videos hosted by the Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW and the Uluru Dialogue. The Uluru Dialogue and the Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW, have a number of important videos available online that you can share with your networks and use to help encourage others to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart. These include videos that explain the different reforms of Voice, Treaty and Truth to videos that analyse what the Voice may look like and the responses of the Australian community. You can find these videos and more here:

<https://vimeo.com/ulurustatement>

What is a Voice to Parliament? |

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9napIK9H_E&ab_channel=FromTheHeart

By From the Heart, this video explains a Voice to Parliament in under 7 minutes for a quick resource to share amongst your networks.

ABC Insiders - Megan Davis and the YES Campaign – ABS News |

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMq6Fnhrqcl&ab_channel=ABCNewsIn-depth – 16 mins 40 seconds

David Speers interviews Professor Megan Davis, co-author of the Uluru Statement From The Heart about the status of the Yes campaign and the Opposition's concerns.

Jack Latimore – the Voice explained | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEFUvIOj-gs&ab_channel=TheAge%26SydneyMorningHerald – 2 mins 34 secs

A quick and detailed explainer of the Voice and the Uluru Statement From the Heart, and some civic **Prof. Megan Davis | A new path to reconciliation** - Duration: 12 mins 30 secs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6J01MLokVy0>

Dean Parkin's TED Talk - Duration: 19 mins 47 secs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xB-31jD4XcA>

In May 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, coming from all points of the southern sky, made the Uluru Statement from The Heart. Building on decades of activism in pursuit of constitutional reform and self-determination, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples reached out to the nation in a heartfelt effort to create a movement for a better future. An experienced independent management consultant, Dean has worked across the public, corporate, not-for-profit and political sectors. He was involved in the negotiations leading to a Native Title determination in 2011 and continues to work with his community on this journey.

Megan Davis reading the Uluru Statement from the Heart - Duration: 3 mins 45 secs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zREKuT6GUqU>

Referendum council member Megan Davis presents the National Indigenous Constitution Convention's statement at the closing ceremony in Mtitjulu, Northern Territory. This is a simple video to use to get the core essence of the Uluru Statement across to your audience.

Occupation: Native (You will need an SBS on demand account – free to sign up) - Duration: 52 mins

<https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1023810627953/occupation-native>

This is a film that depicts how in this country, the Aboriginal story is often buried deep beneath the accepted 247-year Australian historical narrative. It's not that the Australian story is wrong, it's just that it's a bit one sided. Aboriginal filmmaker Trisha Morton-Thomas, bites back at Australian history.

The History of Advocacy Video - Duration: 18 mins 20 secs

<https://vimeo.com/346347606?ref=em-share>

Understand how the Uluru Statement from the Heart is connected to the advocacy of generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Watch "Uluru Statement from the Heart - Secondary Education Tool V5 CURRENT" on Vimeo.

Constitutional Change for the Classroom – Reconciliation NSW |

https://vimeo.com/523659199?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=113427204

A webinar hosted by Reconciliation NSW, the Uluru Dialogues Team and the Indigenous Law Centre UNSW on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This webinar was hosted for educators and on what they need to know and how they can help with the Uluru Statement.

Noel Pearson on the "The Uluru Statement from the Heart" - Duration: 7 mins 39 secs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7S9o3fA3twl>

The University of Sydney - Ask us Anything: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People - Duration: 21 mins 04 secs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHVbVBLhCM&ab_channel=TheUniversityofSydney

→ Is it ever OK to ask how someone how Aboriginal they are? Our students and staff answer anonymously submitted questions to confront myths and stereotypes about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

5.2. Reading and Resources

Recommended Reading List

- Everything you need to know about the Uluru Statement from the Heart - Megan Davis and George Williams
- Finding the Heart of the Nation (also suitable for children) - Thomas Mayor
- Growing up Aboriginal in Australia - Anita Heiss
- Talking to my Country – Stan Grant
- Welcome to Country – Marcia Langton
- Decolonizing Solidarity – Claire Land

Useful resources/links for further research

- <https://ulurustatement.org/>
- <https://fromtheheart.com.au/>
- [Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process - Final Report to the Australian Government](#), Tom Calma and Marcia Langton
- [Raising Indigenous voices on A Voice to Parliament](#), Caitlin Fitzsimmons and Jack Latimore, Sydney Morning Herald (January 2023)
- [Voice is low risk but high return](#), Robert French & Geoffrey Lindell, Financial Review (February 2023)
- [The Voice referendum: how did we get here and where are we going? Here's what we know](#), The Conversation, Gabrielle Appleby (February 2023)
- [Dean Parkin: what is a Voice to Parliament and why does it matter? Social Ventures Australia \(January 2023\)](#)
- [The Conversation – Listening to the heart: what now for Indigenous recognition after the Uluru summit? \(May 2017\)](#)
- [Media Release -Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders People From Across Australia Make Historic Statement \(May 2017\)](#)
- [Vote Compass data finds most Australians support Indigenous Voice to Parliament – and it has grown since the last election](#), Kirstie Wellauer and Bridget Brennan, ABC News (May 2022)
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [1988 Statement – Burunga Festival](#)
- [Yorta Yorta Elder William Cooper's letter to King George VI \(1937\)](#)
- [Larrakia Petition \(1972\)](#)
- [Yirrkala Bark Petitions\(1963\)](#)
- [The Referendum Council website](#)

Talking about the Uluru Statement From The Heart

Discussion Points:

● What is the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

It is an invitation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to all Australians. They have asked us to walk with them in a movement for a better future. The Uluru Statement seeks to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are acknowledged and listened to at the decision-making tables and in all law-making processes that affect them, their families and communities.

● Voice Treaty Truth

There are three core components to the Uluru Statement From the Heart: Voice, Treaty and Truth.



Voice refers to a First Nations Voice, guaranteed by the Constitution, to provide a permanent platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices to be heard by the Parliament of the day.



A **Treaty** is an agreement between First Nations peoples and Australian Governments that aims to set in motion both national acknowledgement of, and legal protection for, First Nations rights and interests.



Undertaking a formalised process of **Truth** telling to acknowledge Australia's history of colonial conflict, dispossession and the strength and resilience of First Nations peoples and cultures.

● Why Constitutional protection?

A constitutional Voice will deliver the authority and certainty required for a durable First Nations Voice on laws and policies that affect them which remains in place regardless of changes in governments. We await a referendum.

Learn more at https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/voice_treaty_truth/



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An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In 2023, Australians will have their say in a referendum on whether to update the Constitution to include an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

The Voice will be an independent, representative advisory body for First Nations people. It will provide a permanent means to advise the Australian Parliament and Government on the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on matters that affect them.

The detail:

A set of principles that describe how the Voice will work were agreed to by the [First Nations Referendum Working Group](#).

The Voice is a body that will:

- provide independent advice to Parliament and Government
- be chosen by First Nations people based on the wishes of local communities
- be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- be empowering, community led, inclusive, respectful, culturally informed and gender balanced, and includes youth
- be accountable and transparent
- work alongside existing organisations and traditional structures.

The Voice will not have a program delivery function, or a veto power.

The structure and role of the Voice would be decided by Parliament through legislation, with members to be chosen by First Nations people.

The referendum is part of the Government's commitment to implementing the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) in full.

Read more about the [Voice to Parliament and referendum](#).

Source: NIAA - National Indigenous Australians Agency <https://voice.niaa.gov.au/#>



The Uluru Statement From The Heart

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from ‘time immemorial’, and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or ‘mother nature’, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia’s nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

Source: <https://fromtheheart.com.au/explore-the-uluru-statement/#statement>

Read more: <https://fromtheheart.com.au/education/> <https://ulurustatement.org/>

MP Letter Templates

Attached are examples of letter content that you can use to write to key elected representatives to let them know the Uluru Statement is important to you and the Australian people. It is especially important to write to representatives who have not yet shown support for the Uluru Statement, or who are part of a party that have not shown support.

For more information on addressing Senators and Members of Parliament, or contacting Senators or Members electronically see the Australian Parliament website.

www.aph.gov.au/senators_and_members/guidelines_for_contacting_senators_and_members

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IF YOUR LOCAL MEMBER IS LIBERAL, NATIONAL or an INDEPENDENT WHO HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED SUPPORT FOR THE ULURU STATEMENT

I am a constituent of your electorate and am contacting you to seek your public support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart was released on 26 May 2017 by delegates at the First Nations National Constitutional Convention, a convention organised by the Referendum Council with bipartisan support. The statement calls for a 'First Nations Voice' enshrined in the Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to supervise agreement-making between governments and First Nations, and truth telling about our history.

Members of the Liberal and National parties have so far not shown support for a First Nations Voice, inaccurately citing that it would act as a third chamber of Parliament, or that there is not enough detail. This and other concerns about a First Nations Voice have been rebutted by the proposals outlined in the [Indigenous Voice Co-Design Report](#). Others have suggested that there is already equality for Indigenous peoples, though former High Court Justice Murray Gleeson has supported a constitutionally enshrined Voice to parliament, because in regard to Indigenous people, "The race power, by its very existence, calls into question the assumption of equality."

Growing support for the Uluru Statement's three tenets of Voice, Treaty, Truth is evident across Australian society, from business leaders to the constituents of your electorate. I request that you support the Uluru Statement also.

I also request that in the lead up to the referendum, you join the 'Yes' campaign and do all you can to ensure we succeed to help contribute to the journey of equality and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Thank you for considering this request. I respectfully await your reply on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

IF YOUR LOCAL MEMBER HAS DEMONSTRATED SUPPORT FOR THE ULURU STATEMENT

Dear

I am a constituent of your electorate and am contacting you to seek your public support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and for a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution.

I understand your party has demonstrated its support for a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution and supports a yes outcome in the upcoming referendum on this issue. I seek your affirmation that you will continue to support this important reform.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart was endorsed by consensus on 26 May 2017 by delegates to an unprecedented national constitutional convention held at Uluru, in Central Australia. The modest proposals in the Uluru Statement from the Heart provide an opportunity for Australia to improve our democracy and national identity by including First Nations Voices in decision-making, and by a Makarrata Commission that will help us acknowledge our history and move forward together in a genuine process of reconciliation.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart was presented by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates to the people of Australia to “walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future”. I respectfully request that you continue to demonstrate your support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

I believe that First Nations people must be integral to the design of the Voice representative body model, and I request you support First Nations peoples in our electorate to participate to ensure local representation.

I respectfully await your reply on this matter.

Yours faithfully

Posters and Design

The [Uluru Dialogues Team](#) has created a suite of design resources in their [Supporter Kit](#) that can be used in various formats for promoting, sharing and raising awareness about the Uluru Statement from the Heart and to voice support.

This includes [social media tiles](#), [email banners](#), and [posters](#). [Go to their website](#) to download these for your own use. We have provided some links to posters below.

Single sided poster with Uluru Statement logo and background imagery, perfect for sharing on social media, displaying in the workplace, or to use at events. Portrait orientation.

Download the PDF file → <https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/USFH-Single-Sided-Logo-and-Socials-Poster-V3.pdf>

The Uluru Statement's '[Silence Never Made History](#)' coloured poster.

The Uluru Statement's '[History is Calling](#)' coloured poster.

The Uluru Statement's '[Support a First Nations Voice to Parliament](#)' coloured poster.

Single sided poster with Uluru Statement logo and simple white background, perfect for adding your own edits, including your company logo, images or anything else to post on social media and display. **Portrait orientation**. Download the PDF file →

<https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/USFH-Single-Sided-Logo-and-Socials-Poster.pdf>

Single sided poster with Uluru Statement logo and simple white background, perfect for adding your own edits, including your company logo, images or anything else to post on social media and display. **Landscape orientation**. Download the PDF file →

<https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/USFH-Uluru-Supporter-Poster-2021-190421.pdf>

Template poster that you can add your company logo to, display in the workplace and share on social media to spread the word that you support the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Attached as a word document for easy editing so you can personalise it according to you.

Download the file → https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/12b_UluruToolkit_TemplatePoster.docx

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART