

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=NDyw88Ybl0g&ab_channel=RedWineandBlue

[Heart](#), a [Local Reconciliation Group](#), the [Voice from the Heart Alliance](#), a University student group, etc.)

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..."

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.