

Submission to the Voice Co-design Process – [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] and I live on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Indigenous Voice Discussion Paper.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live with the generational impacts of the violent colonisation of this country every day – racism, poverty, poor health and educational outcomes, high rates of incarceration of adults and children – and continued abuse, discrimination and denial of human rights.

Over the last 40 years I have worked in areas where I have seen this discrimination in action in corporate and non-government sectors and various sectors of the Australian and NSW Government including health, education and justice.

It is time to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities in their demands for justice. In 2017 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people came together and produced the Uluru Statement, which gives the Australian government a pathway to First Nations People's self-determination and reconciliation.

I support the Uluru Statement's demand for not only constitutional recognition, but also an independent voice enshrined in the constitution. In this submission I call on the Australian government to:

1. Honour its election commitment to a referendum once the model for the Voice has been settled,
2. Introduce enabling legislation for the Voice must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament, and
3. Support a membership model for the National Voice which ensures that previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same chance of being selected as established leadership figures.

In taking up the call for fairness and justice, the Australian government has the opportunity to form a stronger and fairer society, and a better future for us all.

Regards
[REDACTED]