

Kirsten Strudwick
[REDACTED]

Dear Co-Design Body

Submission for Co-design process

I grew up in Adelaide then Melbourne. Married moved to Panmure and now divorced live in Warrnambool. I work from home as a phone consultant. I live with my cat Leo. My son is in Melbourne expecting his first child.

Why do you think the Uluru Statement from the Heart is important?

Because we as a Nation are meant to be living together as one.

How could a Voice to Parliament improve the lives of your community?

Hopefully you would have people there who could help those here who need the help.

Why is it important for Indigenous people to have a say in the matters that affect them?

Because we are basically still treating you like second class citizens, and it has got to stop. We as a whole don't respect you, your history and your people. I am so very sorry it has taken me so damn long to say something. What on earth is going on with deaths in custody? Why are we still not doing anything about those issues. Sorry I don't get it.

Why do you think it's important to enshrine the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution, rather than include it only in legislation?

Well legislation is a waste of time obviously because nothing has been done regarding the previous ones or Royal Commissions. The government would be better off spending the money on setting up support for those who need it.

Come on lets get something positive done please. We said "Sorry", which meant nothing as it wasn't followed up with any actions. Oh and changing a word in the National Anthem means nothing either when we are still carrying on as we were before. I love hearing the anthem sung in the Indigenous words before in English. That should be routine on every occasion the anthem is sung. I recently attended a Rugby game in Melbourne and I spoke to an elderly gentleman who asked me if I was Indigenous as I was speaking to him, he was a bit shocked when I said no. Seriously it's not right when people aren't talking to others because of what ever reason. We all live together in this wonderful country which the Indigenous peoples took care of before we arrived and stuffed everything up. What about treating everyone as equals, wouldn't that be nice.

Kind regards,
Kirsten Strudwick