

'The Voice' – Bill Lawson submission

- The Federal Government's proposal to establish 'The Voice' on a legislated basis should only be seen as a first step toward constitutional enshrinement.
- The fact that the Federal Government has precluded constitutional enshrinement from the current process should not be an impediment to its pursuit.
- Inhibition of constitutional enshrinement by 'under funding' remains a risk to effectiveness.
- Many thinking and caring Australians are annoyed and frustrated by the Federal Government's seemingly ill-considered and immediate rejection of the Uluru Statement.
- This propensity of successive Federal Governments to summarily reject proposals and projects focused on overcoming our First Peoples' many disadvantages is clearly a trend which does not allow debate and consideration by the Peoples House, let alone by referenda.
- This situation is not democratic, but autocratic, exercised by successive Prime Ministers and Opposition Leaders of the two main parties behind closed doors dumping, amongst many others;
 - ATSIC
 - Recognise
 - Congress

These summary dismissals without input from either the Parliament as the 'Peoples House' or referenda are unfair and un-Australian. This practise cannot be allowed to continue unchallenged.

- There is a need for a clear opportunity for ordinary, thinking Australians to make their displeasure known.
- The current 'Voice' implementation process needs to be supported in its establishment by legislation but only as a first step.
- This support needs to be both by strength of numbers and financial but, importantly, independent of Governments in order to provide certainty and security for the 'Voice' as it migrates from a legislated base to full constitutional enshrinement.
- Possibilities to do so in a manner compatible with current 'The Voice' proposals are currently being explored.

Bill Lawson.
28th April 2021.