

26 January 2021

Submission re The Voice

Since May 2017, when the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* was created and gifted to the Australian people, there has been a steady groundswell of support for the Statement's three key requests: Voice. Treaty. Truth.

After nearly 240 years of dispossession (sovereignty was never ceded), and more than half a century after the historic 1967 referendum, it's time for the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be really heard.

That can only take place with respect and deep listening (Dadirri). I believe the best way for this to happen is if the listening consultative mechanism is embedded in our constitution as a fundamental principle.

It is time for a fair go, for practical change built on real principle, for the Australian people to feel united in mutual respect and to believe we are all included in our nation's journey going forward.

Now is the time to seize this opportunity to make history of which we can all be proud.