

## **Submission: Dr Patrick Allington**

I am a non-Indigenous person who lives on Kurna land, in the foothills of Adelaide, in what is now known as South Australia. I support the principles and the detail of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and urge the Australian Government to design a formal Voice that follows the Uluru Statement from the Heart in theory, in practice, and in detail - and I ask that it do so with openness, enthusiasm and genuine commitment.

Symbolism is important, but it has proved to be insufficient without meaningful recognition, reform and action that leads to concrete change. The proposals in the Uluru Statement of the Heart are deeply considered and they are, in my view, in the interests of all Australians. Not only should we accept the Statement in full, we should do so while expressing our gratitude and admiration to the many people who helped craft it.

As a non-Indigenous person, I acknowledge without reservation that Indigenous sovereignty co-exists with Crown sovereignty. The Uluru Statement From the Heart states that 'substantive constitutional change and structural reform' could enable 'this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood'. To take this step is simply the right thing to do, and that should be reason enough to proceed without further delay. But more than that, the co-existence of these sovereignties, the bringing together of them, would represent a hugely positive step forward for us as a nation. It's time, as a nation, to grow up. It's time for us to embrace our responsibilities. It's time for us to look up and look around and to accept our reality.

Accordingly, I support without reservation these key elements of the Uluru Statement From the Heart:

'We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution. Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

'We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.'

For the Parliament to proceed in the way would be an overdue step forward for Australia as a nation and Australians as citizens.

Thank for you the opportunity to make this brief submission.