

Voice Secretariat
Reply Paid 83380 CANBERRA ACT 2601
By email: Co-designVoice@niaa.gov.au

Dear Voice Secretariat members,

RE: Personal submission to the Indigenous Voice proposal outlined in the Indigenous Voice Co-design Process Interim Report to the Australian Government (October 2020)

I fully support the extraordinarily powerful and clear Uluru Statement from the Heart, which outlines the way forward for real reconciliation to take place in Australia.

I also fully support a genuinely representative, gender balanced, Indigenous Voice to Parliament being written into the Australian Constitution in order to provide advice to the Parliament on national issues and matters directly and indirectly impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Such a Voice is a fundamental step towards empowering First Nations communities and enabling their participation.

However in order to achieve legitimate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, I believe it is crucial that:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must be able to determine the means by which they are represented through the Local & Regional and National Voices; and
- Gender balanced representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities must be ensured; and
- Indigenous women and girls are given increased opportunities for self-determination and participation in the policy-making process which impacts their lives; and that
- Indigenous Voice representatives to Parliament and Government are NOT appointed by any Australian government; and that
- The Voice must be sufficiently independent of the government of the day in order to provide frank and authentic advice to Parliament about the impact of proposed policy and legislative reform on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples without fear or favour.

Yours sincerely,

