

**This submission is in response to the Interim Voice co-design report and is on behalf of the Clodagh Caplis.**

I am coming up to my 10th anniversary of living in this beautiful country. Originally born in Ireland and bred in the UK, I came to Australia as I was closing out my 20's and here is where I see my future; my partner is Australian, and so is my daughter. It is my home. I am lucky.

I've been fortunate to work in and around many Aboriginal and Torres Strait organisations, and I understand how far we have come as a country in the last ten years. However, we still have a way to go.

The work the Government has done on the proposed Voice model is a progressive step forward. Now, it is time to put an Enshrined Voice in the Constitution back on the table. The Enshrined Voice will drive the Voice's durability and legitimacy. After all, this is what the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart called for, and it is the only majority consensus on meaningful constitutional recognition.

Constitutional recognition was an election promise, and a referendum is budgeted.

I advocate for the broad participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in the final Voice design process and prospective membership model. The membership model for the National Voice must ensure previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same opportunity for selection as established leadership figures.

If the Government decide to disregard the call for an Enshrined Voice, it will be a missed opportunity for Australia as a nation. Still, more importantly, the implications and impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities will be far-reaching.

I want to thank the Government for the opportunity to participate in this process and look forward to an outcome that honours the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and leaders who have worked tirelessly over many years to get to this point.