

Submission to the Voice Co-design Process – [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] and I live on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Indigenous Voice Discussion Paper.

In making my submission I have reflected on the lasting negative impacts of colonisation, as well as a commitment to justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. I have worked in the health sector for decades and have seen the multi-generational negative impacts of colonisation first-hand. I have also seen the constant struggle by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to gain justice and land rights and a secure future for their children and communities.

It is time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices to be enshrined in the constitution, and for all Australians to gain a better understanding of the land we live on and the original custodians that we live beside every day. It's time to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities in their demands for recognition and justice.

In 2017 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people came together and produced the Uluru Statement. I support the Uluru Statement's demand, for not only constitutional recognition, but also for an independent voice enshrined in the constitution.

In this submission I call on the Australian government to enact the following:

1. Honour its election commitment to a referendum once the model for the Voice has been settled,
2. Introduce enabling legislation for the Voice must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament, and
3. Support a membership model for the National Voice, which ensures that previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same chance of being selected as established leadership figures.

I hope that the Australian government will take this opportunity to address the call for fairness and justice and appropriate recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

I thank you for considering my submission and look forward to your considered response.

Regards
[REDACTED]