

[REDACTED]
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To whom it may concern

Co-design process: Submission [REDACTED]

I am a non-executive director and business owner [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

I am President of the [REDACTED] to promote awareness and raise funds to enhance diversity and equity. I run [REDACTED] which is focussed on engaged, connected empathetic leadership and passionate about the diversity of society being reflected in leadership ranks.

Why do you think the Uluru Statement from the Heart is important?

The Uluru Statement is important because it recognises the pain and trauma of First Nations people, their spiritual connection to the land as the longest cultures in existence, and the lack of recognition of that sovereignty. Land that was never ceded. We must listen to the histories and truths despite discomfort, in order to move forward. We need to move to redress the brutal dismantling of Indigenous cultures and map a way forward from where we are now and embracing the wisdom that is offered by Indigenous people.

Why do you think it's important to enshrine the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution, rather than include it only in legislation?

I believe First Nations people should be represented in the Constitution. The lack of representation is historical to meet the needs of the white colony. The colonisers ability to suppress and ignore Indigenous people, to set up constructs entirely suited to their own purposes, not recognising any other ownership, rights, traditions, rules or laws and overwhelm First Nations people is an unchangeable part of history. However moving forward, based on greater humanity, fairness and justice this should be redressed in the most meaningful ways including inclusion in the Constitution.

Why do you think a Voice to Parliament is important?

A Voice to parliament is important - influence comes from being heard, form contributing different perspectives and lenses across important matters. It is proven diversity provides for better outcomes. The Indigenous voice has been muted, unheard, muffled and lacked influence for too long. A Voice to Parliament would redress this issue and provide a powerful and valuable perspective.

Why is it important for Indigenous people to have a say in the matters that affect them?

Self determination is powerful and effective. The ability to influence matters directly effecting you leads to empowerment and self determination. It will lead to much better outcomes for Indigenous people. Given the spiritual connection to the land and knowledge of it there will be a a far improved outcomes for Indigenous people and in fact societal and environmental outcomes as well, for all of the country.

Yours sincerely,

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