

While I'm not convinced this Indigenous Voice and co-design process is the best way forward, I am glad to see we are taking a step forward and welcome the opportunity to provide a submission.

In an ideal world, we should be moving forward with an Indigenous Voice in parliament that has been enshrined into the constitution, as set out in the Uluru Statement From The Heart. However, in lieu of that, I believe this Indigenous Voice created via the co-design process has the power to create lasting change for Indigenous Australians and contribute towards a better shared future for Australia.

Indigenous Australians have been waiting too long for the Australian government to write their wrongs and improve their outcomes. This process should not be paternalistic, and it's clear that so far this approach has not worked. The Australian government at all levels should be working in partnership with Indigenous Australians to learn how to better their future and thereby Australia's future, and I believe this Indigenous Voice is a step forward in this process.

How many more people need to die in custody? How much longer do they need to wait to Close The Gap? How much longer do they need to wait for sovereignty to be ceded? Give Indigenous Australians the power to have a say in their future and get a 'fair go'.