

Darren Venn

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Dear Co-Design Body

Submission to Co-design process

I'm Darren. I was brought up to respect and treat everyone equally. I am a teacher at the Adelaide Secondary School of English for New Arrivals.

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

I believe that the Uluru Statement from the heart needs to be enshrined in our Constitution to give the indigenous peoples a say on how best to run their lives and to give them self-determination.

*How could a Voice to Parliament improve the lives of your community?*

Giving people a say in their lives is the decent thing to do. We Australians, like a fair go. We like to do things for ourselves or to have a say on how things are to be done.

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

Self-determination is vital for the indigenous peoples. They know what is best for them. They have been good custodians of our country and themselves for millennia. They are great processors of dispute resolution.

*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 the Voice needs to be enshrined in the constitution because we Australians are fed up of continuous "Statements of Hope" being legislated only to be scrapped by the next incoming government. This just means little or no change and no continuity. Closing the Gap comes to mind.

A Voice in parliament is how the parliament works. We have many advisory groups who do exactly that: advise the government how to best govern whatever they are advocating. The government is supreme and will decide to take the advice, consult or reject.

Kind regards,  
Darren Venn