

Re: INDIGENOUS VOICE –submission

The 'Uluru Statement from the Heart' calls for a Constitutionally enshrined First Nation's Voice, as an essential and timely step towards coming together as a Nation and respectfully and earnestly resounding with our minds and hearts to the aspirations of First Nations people for facilitating more collaborative and participatory processes in decision-making.

A National Voice is a significant mechanism for collaborative consultation and participation, which holds the potential to facilitate more inclusive leadership through the deliberation of all relevant stakeholders, greater accountability, and more responsive and sustainable decision-making.

At the same time, the proposal for a National Voice, can facilitate forums for dialogue and shared decision-making to enhance stakeholder engagement and foster better relationships &/ partnerships with key Aboriginal stakeholders &/communities at both National & regional levels of government.

Ensuring that First Nations' people's aspirations are recognised, and the National Voice is constitutionally enshrined, requires a shared understanding & earnest collective commitment to advancing the heart & soul of Uluru Statement.

In essence, this proposal for Constitutional change embodies a significant step forward for the whole Nation in ensuring that the democratic processes of participation and empowerment are realised for all Australians.

From a therapeutic justice perspective, according 'voice' and 'choice', through meaningful Aboriginal community &/stakeholder engagement and participation, constitute essential tenets of procedural justice, and instrumentally form important therapeutic pre-conditions to facilitating collective healing and wellbeing.