

To whom it may concern

Submission to Co-design process

My name is Tshepo Twala and I am a black African born in South Africa. I studied and completed my LLB degree from a University in South Africa. I was admitted as a solicitor on 30 April 2018 after completing my two years of articles of clerkship (two years as a Graduate). I am currently working for Gilbert & Tobin as a Consultant (Admitted in South Africa, not in Australia) in the Banking and Infrastructure department. I am currently enrolled for a diploma in law with the University of Sydney with the hope of getting admitted as a solicitor in Australia hopefully by the end of this year. I was born and raised in South Africa and moved to Australia in 2019.

Why do you think the Uluru Statement from the Heart is important? For the longest time, people of colour or people of colour of indigenous people around the world have experienced oppression for generations. Oppression that has spilled over to other subsequent generations. We are a generation of trauma and pain. For the longest time the world has treated us like dirt and stripped us of our dignity at every opportunity. For the longest time we did not have a voice as no one was willing to listen to us because no one saw value in listening to us. The Uluru Statement from the Heart is not just piece of paper but a monumental piece of words that enshrines and carry the wishes of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes across the country. It is all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes speaking with one united voice and all they are asking for is to be heard, just to be heard and be recognized as humans and be treated as humans which is a basic human right.

Why is it important for Indigenous people to have a say in the matters that affect them? No one is better suited to have a say or voice on such issues other than the actual people who are living through the hardships daily. Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can put words into their pain and years of oppression. Allowing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes to have a say in such matters is the first step of many in the journey of regaining their dignity, culture, roots and what is owed to them and to recognise what was taken away from them.

Why do you think it's important to enshrine the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution, rather than include it only in legislation? The Constitution is the highest law of the Commonwealth. No other legislation is supreme to the Constitution. By enshrining the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution would force the entire Commonwealth to recognise the Voice to Parliament. Having it in legislation may cause an issue where some states may not pass or agree to enshrine the Voice to Parliament.

How could a Voice to Parliament improve the lives of your community? Having a voice in Parliament would be a huge step as it would allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes to have a say in parliamentary reforms because who is best placed to know what is best for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people other than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people themselves? Enshrining

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes are not asking for the minerals underneath the soil or to own the Reserve Bank, they are simply asking to be heard and the fact that they are fighting to be heard is a crime against is a crime. No one should be fighting to be heard, not with all the knowledge we have as people. For too long they have been

struggling and subjected to inhuman treatment and it is time for this country to hear them,
THAT IS ALL THEY ARE ASKING, TO BE HEARD!