



Indigenous Voice

CPSU SUBMISSION

27 APRIL 2021

Voice Secretariat
Reply Paid 83380
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: Co-designVoice@niaa.gov.au

Dear sir/madam

Indigenous Voice

The Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) is the primary union representing Australian Public Service employees. We are committed to providing a strong voice for our members in key public policy and political debates.

The CPSU welcomes the opportunity to make this submission in response to the Interim Report to the Australian Government on Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process.

Following the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the CPSU consulted with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members to ascertain their view on its recommendations. The CPSU National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cabinet (NATSIC) is the union's peak consultative body for our Indigenous members, comprising almost 1600 members.

Consultation occurred through surveys, meetings, focus groups and an invitation for submissions throughout 2017 and 2018 to develop a draft position.

In 2018, the CPSU NATSIC endorsed this position, and it has been adopted by our union, and is supported by the union's Governing Council and membership.

The CPSU's position is that it:

- supports the Statement from the Heart made at Uluru in May 2017.
- supports a change to the Constitution that recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples having a real Voice to Parliament.
- seeks real progress towards Treaty/Makarrata including truth-telling of our history.

Our membership strongly believes that the Government must act to bring change to the current situation. While this process is largely looking at a Voice to Parliament, we believe truth telling, treaty making and constitutional recognition are also integral to bringing societal change.

The CPSU recommends the Government finalise the process of First Nations people having a Voice to Parliament through constitutional and legislated change.

[Indigenous Voice]: CPSU submission

The CPSU is happy to provide information on the matters raised in this submission and supplementary information on other relevant issues.

For further information, please contact Paul Blake, Lead Organiser via email paul.blake@cpsu.org.au or on 0408 465 689.

Yours sincerely

Melissa Donnelly

National Secretary