

Voice Secretariat
Reply Paid 83380
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: co-designvoice@niaa.gov.au

To the Voice Secretariat,

I am writing to you in relation to the Interim Voice Report and to provide feedback on how the proposals will work.

I support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, I have heard the voice of the oldest continuing culture on earth and I want our government to do so as well. I want us to listen and to learn from those who walked the lands before us.

I have read the Uluru Statement from the Heart's call and I have accepted its invitation to walk in a movement of the Australian people for a better future. As part of this movement, I would like the opportunity to vote on enshrining a Voice to Parliament in our constitution. I believe this is a critical step towards creating a united Australia in which Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians can work together towards a future based on compassion, justice, hope, faith and reconciliation.

I appreciate the work that has gone into the Indigenous Voice co-design process and the development of proposals for a National Voice, and for Local and Regional Voices. I also appreciate this opportunity to respond to the proposals.

As it takes the next step towards establishing an Indigenous Voice, we ask the Australian Government to honour its election commitment to a referendum, allowing the Australian people to vote on enshrining a Voice to Parliament. This referendum should be held before enabling legislation for the Voice is passed. I want to ensure the work being done now will be protected for future generations. I would like to see this important step towards a united future, and would like to ensure that the people who come after me will benefit from an Australia that has properly acknowledged and safe-guarded the importance of listening to, and learning from, our country's First Nations People.

I would also like to express my support for a membership model that ensures previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same chance of being selected as established leadership figures. I recognise the enormous diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and believe that a Voice to Parliament will be all the richer for ensuring it is properly reflective of this diversity.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Interim Voice Report on the co-design of a First Nations Voice.

Yours sincerely,

Gabrielle McGill