

tony mcnamara

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To whom it may concern

Co-design process: Submission for tony mcnamara

I am a writer/producer in the film and tv industry. I live on Gundugurra country in NSW.

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

It's important for indigenous people to be heard in both simple moral terms and in practical systemic terms. To have a mechanism that allows them the voice they need in our society that is enshrined in our constitution will take it away from piecemeal politics and address it as what it is, a moral issue. It is important for Australia as a whole to take this meaningful step to redress and try to bring some kind of balance into our long tragic history of injustice.

Why do you think it's important to enshrine the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution, rather than include it only in legislation?

It is a practical necessity as legislation is always at the mercy of party politics. It is also a symbolic necessity to finally embrace into our founding document our indigenous people, as so many other countries have done. To resist it is to send a message that we as a country still refuse to accept our indigenous people.

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

I grew up in regional Victoria and saw first hand the endemic racism that

indigenous people had to endure, and the lack of voice they had within Australia's system was obvious.

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

Anything that improves and includes indigenous health, opportunity and listens to the needs of the community will improve all Australian's lives. For centuries white culture has ignored the wealth of knowledge and wisdom and insight the indigenous culture has to offer us about our own land by enshrining that voice into the constitution it would be a practical and moral victory for the whole country.

Kind regards,
tony mcnamara