

Julia Mooney

Q 4561

To whom it may concern

Co-design process: Submission for Julia Mooney

I'm a non-Indigenous Australian who grew up on the lands of the Turrbul and Jagera peoples, in Meanjin (Brisbane). I now live on Gubbi Gubbi country, on the Sunshine Coast. I work for the Queensland Government, and previously studied Engineering, Business Management and Environmental Management at the University of Queensland.

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

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is important because it clearly shows us how the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this land would like to be recognised, the role they want to play in this nation. It provides a clear invitation and path to walk together as Australians to a better and brighter future. The statement says "This is the torment of our powerlessness." We have an amazing opportunity to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to create a better future for their communities and for all Australians. To end this torment.

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should have the opportunity to have a say in the matters that affect them. Although we can try, non-Indigenous peoples can never fully understand and appreciate the struggles and issues Indigenous peoples face. We cannot create effective and meaningful solutions without Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples leading and developing solutions. Who better to understand the matters that affect Indigenous peoples, than the peoples themselves?

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

A Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution means empowering Indigenous peoples to have a direct say in laws and policies, in conditions that enable certainty, durability and more long-term planning. Indigenous peoples cannot remain a political football. This certainty for the future is necessary for sustainable, effective, long-term outcomes.

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

A Voice to Parliament will enable effective programs and solutions to address the issues faced by Indigenous peoples. As the Uluru Statement from the Heart says, "When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country." Furthermore, all Australians stand to benefit from a Voice to Parliament, to create a better and brighter Australia. When all citizens have the opportunity to flourish the entire nation benefits.

Thank you,  
Julia Mooney