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SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL

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29 April 2021

Submission: The Imperative of Constitutional Enshrinement

We write as a group of educators at Sydney Law School. The Sydney Law School has provided legal education in Australia for over 130 years. It is located on the land of the Gadigal of the Eora Nation.

As legal educators, we research and teach how legal institutions can be shaped to support social cohesion and deliberation for the public good.

The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* is a powerful act of faith in the people of Australia to grasp an opportunity for substantive constitutional change and structural reform. After 250 years and multiple petitions from the First Nations of our Australian continent, the Statement concludes on an invitation, to ‘walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future’.

We endorse the recommendations and reasons provided in the ‘Public Lawyers - Indigenous Voice Submission’ (submission #38, 20 January 2021). In particular, we support the recommendation for a constitutionally enshrined voice, meaning that the existence and core function of the Voice should be included in the written text of the Constitution, alongside a power to enable the Commonwealth Parliament to determine its composition, additional functions, powers and procedures in legislation.

We believe that a constitutionally enshrined Voice is consistent with our constitutional traditions, and a necessary response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

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