

I support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a Voice to Parliament protected in the Australian Constitution

The Government must honour its election commitment to a referendum once a model for the Voice has been settled. Failure to do so will mean Australia is selling its First Nations people short. Non-Indigenous Australians could also feel cheated. There is over \$7 million which has been put aside by the Government to develop a model for the indigenous voice, which the government originally planned to put to Australian voters in a national referendum.

Enabling legislation for the Voice must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament. Issues affecting Indigenous Australians, such as health, economic, cultural and educational, need to be addressed as soon as humanly possible. Australia needs Indigenous input on how to solve problems affecting Indigenous peoples right now. For too long Indigenous Australians have had their issues “solved” by non-Indigenous authorities, which has over the past 200-plus years, led to disastrous outcomes.

The membership model for the National Voice must ensure previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same chance of being selected as established leadership figures. For too long the voices of the same leading identities have been heard, which has severely affected the pool of ideas and as well as the potential for the airing of new and inspiring suggestions on how things could be done on the Indigenous issues front going forward. Hearing from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who haven't been heard before in public domains such as Australia's parliament is paramount to standing the best chance of sharing and receiving ideas which are yet to be heard by those in power.