

The Sydney Alliance, a coalition of unions, churches and community groups; call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

We are the Sydney Alliance (<https://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/>). We are a coalition of religious groups, community organisations, charities, NGOs, unions and schools. Our goal is to advance the common good and achieve a fair, just and sustainable Sydney. We organise our communities to step up and be heard on the issues that affect us and our families. We are radically non-partisan. We want active citizens and accountable politicians. We represent the rich and diverse multiculturalism of Australia.

We welcome the Government's Indigenous Voice co-design interim Report (the Interim Report) and acknowledge the significant work undertaken by the co-design groups, led by co-chairs Professor Marcia Langton AM and Professor Tom Calma AO. We acknowledge the terms of reference of the National Co-design Group and understand the limitations this presented to the Interim Report Voice model.

Our submission seeks to strongly support the work of **The Uluru Statement from the Heart**. We believe A Voice enshrined in the Constitution is a fair, practical and safe proposal that is foundational in unifying our nation. As a diverse group of organisations that work together to reckon with our communities' issues on race, housing, work and climate we are committed to taking action and building relationships that will heal and unify the Australian society in which we wish to live.

The work achieved by the Uluru Dialogues and during the development of the Interim Report cannot be lost in another election cycle. Our submission to call for constitutional enshrinement seeks to ensure the permanence and robustness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's decision-making in our democracy.

The Sydney Alliance acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed under Aboriginal laws and customs. We recognise the history and connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country. We acknowledge that for real change to happen, this must now be enabled through an Indigenous Voice to Parliament and must be enshrined in the Australian Constitution.

The Sydney Alliance partners have always been committed to practical and real change for First Nations peoples, we see constitutional change as a significant part, but not the limit of the work. Alliance partners will continue to be in solidarity with the everyday fights for treaty and standing up against deaths in custody. Our support for constitutional change and the Uluru Statement from the Heart is to further support these struggles and assert the self-determination and governance of First Nations over their own communities to influence decisions on issues that affect them most.

This is why our submission supports the three main claims of *From the Heart* (<https://fromtheheart.com.au/>);

1. The government must honour its election commitment to **a referendum** once the model for the Voice has been settled;
2. Enabling legislation for the Voice must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament; and
3. 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.

We are committed to walking together with First Nations People and our relationships are strengthened by taking action together, to organise for the common good

In good faith,

The Sydney Alliance

List Organisations signed on;



Arab Council Australia



Jesuit Refugee Service Australia



Blue Mountains Refugee Support
Group Inc



Catholic Diocese of Parramatta



Churches Housing Inc.



Engadine Connect Church



Sydney Alliance



Older Women's Network NSW



Multicultural Youth Affairs
Network NSW



Nature Conservation Council of NSW



Parramatta Climate Action Network



Sydney Community Forum



Shelter NSW



Sisters of St Joseph



Settlement Services International



UCA Parramatta Nepean Presbytery



Uniting Church Synod of NSW & ACT



United Workers Union



Uniting



World Wildlife Fund



Australian Conservation Foundation



JUSTICE 
PEACE OFFICE
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Justice Peace Office

St Brigid's Catholic Parish

St Brigid's Catholic Parish
Marrickville

Reconciliation

for Western Sydney

Reconciliation for
Western Sydney



NSW Jewish Board of Deputies



Youth HEAR



Vinnie's



Baptist Churches NSW & ACT