

Adam Raffel



Dear Co-Design Body

Submission for Co-design process

I am a non-indigenous man residing in Sydney. I was born in Colombo Sri Lanka and my family migrated to Australia in 1975. I work as a freelance editor for a law publishing company with a Bachelor of Arts from Macquarie University, a Graduate Diploma in Information Management (Librarianship) from University of NSW and a Graduate Certificate in Editing and Publishing from UTS - Sydney. My interests are history, literature, theatre and film.

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

It is crucial that indigenous Australians have a say in policies that affect them.

*Why do you think Indigenous people should have a Voice to Parliament?*

A Voice to Parliament provides the foundation for better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They are the ones that have the best understanding of the challenges facing their families and communities.

*Why do you think a Voice to Parliament is important?*

It is important to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, allowing them to take ownership and responsibility for the challenges that they face, and work constructively with governments.

*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 important to enshrine the Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the Constitution because it cannot be changed by the government of the day by amending or repealing legislation. It only can be changed by the Australian people in a referendum.

It is so important for non-indigenous Australians like me to recognise that Australia was built on the dispossession of its original inhabitants and indigenous sovereignty was never formally ceded to the British Crown and to the Australian Commonwealth. This is a gross injustice that needs to be addressed. Australia will only be complete as a nation when indigenous sovereignty is formally recognised and enshrined in The Constitution.

Thank you,

Adam Raffel