

# Co-Design Interim Report Submission

## Active Left - Adelaide SA

Active Left as a group of ALP members, Trade Unionists, community activists and ordinary concerned Australians acknowledge that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes, according to science, have possessed the Australian continent and its adjacent islands for longer than 80,000 years we are committed to seeking a voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait people to the Australian Federal Parliament be enshrined into the Australian Constitution

We humbly submit the following

### 1. A Promise yet to be kept

The current Federal Government announced a budget allocation of \$7.3 million for the express purpose of collecting and considering the 'co-design of options' for a Voice To Parliament we ask that this promise to consider options include all options, not merely a form of words for an Act Of Parliament that might be repealed at the whim of future Parliaments.

This promise should be kept and that the question to be answered by both Houses who were elected to Govern for all Australians be how a question might be worded to satisfy both major political parties and from them their constituents to change the Australian Constitution to provide a permanent Voice to the Australian parliament for First Nations Australians.

This is fair

This is meaningful

This is practical

It can be achieved, it can be achieved now and it is the duty of people of good faith to make it happen

### 2. A Noble first step leads to others

We further suggest that once the form of words for a referendum question has been decided by the current Parliament and that these words having achieved bipartisan support and then put to a vote by the Australian people, reaching the required standard of 'a majority of voters, in a majority of States' that enabling legislation for a Voice To Parliament be immediately enacted during the first sitting of the newly-elected Parliament.

To do else is to ignore the wishes of the people, to delay and defer the passage of laws to empower First Nations people to have a real and meaningful say on legislation that directly affects them is a clear indication that the old (and continuing) relationship between Aboriginal Australia and the Parliament is preferred by that Parliament despite the wishes of the electorate and States.

### 3. A Properly constituted body, properly heard

This legislation must consider that the Voice to Parliament be comprised a truly representative group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The Voice of those who have been previously unheard must now be listened to.

Every person who is qualified to provide advice to Parliament must have an equal opportunity to have a seat at that table. This new body should not be populated by established leadership figures.

#### 4. A difficult, but not impossible task

Active Left understands that this will not be an easy task, but it is a task that needs to be undertaken and undertaken with some urgency.

This Co-Design Process was started as a response to recommendations made by the Joint Select Committee On Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (abbrv: JSC)

This JSC in itself arose from four separate processes

However the agreed co-design process seems to have focussed on a legislative outcome we ask that, whilst important and a significant step forward for Aboriginal Australians it falls short of taking heroic steps towards a Constitutional Enshrinement of a Voice To Parliament.

We ask that the co-design process be re-focussed to achieve this outcome

#### Summary

We humbly submit that a Voice To Parliament, enshrined in the Australian Constitution is fair, practical, safe and meaningful in unifying all Australians.

That the time to achieve this is now we don't want to avoid our responsibility to settle this important matter be handed down to subsequent generations

On Behalf of the Active Left (South Australia)