

# Annamila

**Annamila First Nations Foundation  
Feedback prepared in response to the  
Indigenous Voice Co-Design Discussion Paper for  
Professor Dr Marcia Langton AO and Professor Tom Calma AO**

The Annamila First Nations Foundation welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Indigenous Voice Co-Design Discussion Paper. We are a majority First Nations Board with the purpose to promote and support the sovereignty of Australia's First Peoples so that Australia can free itself of discrimination of all kinds, especially the harmful ongoing effects of its colonial heritage.

Our **principles of engagement** are based on

- Genuine self-determination - "nothing for them without them"
- Sustainability
- Effective Australian First Peoples leadership
- Protection of Australian First Peoples knowledge
- Practice with Australian First Peoples Protocols and Aboriginal Terms of Reference
- We support and amplify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander expertise and leadership

**1) What would be the impact of an Indigenous Voice for you, your community or organisation and Australia more broadly?**

- Little impact if that voice cannot contribute significantly to systemic change.
- Little impact if Governments do not respect and act on the expressed power of Indigenous knowledges, practices and philosophy.

**2) What features of the local and regional proposal are most important and why?**

The strongest contemporary model for respectful and effective engagement with First Nations People is the Coalition of Peaks and we would strongly recommend that the progress made by this group in recent times be emulated in relation to your proposals, particularly its success in negotiating service delivery, distribution of resources and overarching policy settings.

**3) How would the proposed Local and Regional Voice work for you, and your community or your organisation?**

- The advisory status is not Self Determination.

- The proposed advisory model is fundamentally flawed because it is not Self Determination and does not address power imbalance. It leaves the reality of decision making undefined and doesn't appear to recognise the importance of being able to challenge the existing decision making authorities.

#### **4) What features are most important in the proposal for the National voice and why..**

- That is advice is always accepted.
- That it has the capacity to set its own agenda and is not confined to an agenda set by government.
- That a mechanism be enshrined that enables all levels of governments to be held to account for actions that are taken post the expression of the Voice.

#### **5) How would the proposed National Voice work for you, your community or your organisation?**

If the Voice meets the criteria referred to in this submission, then it would be a body we would consult on a range of issues from time to time. If it's purely 'Advisory', then it will have little relevance to our work. As a philanthropic organisation, we recognise and committ ourselves to the authentic independent voices of First Nations Peoples expressed through their independently run and self-controlled organisations.

They will always be a primary reference point for us.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback. In closing, we wish to make the point that we strongly support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its constitutionally enshrined Voice that has nation to nation status.

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