

Penelope Hill

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To Co-Design Body

Submission for Co-design process

I live in Melbourne on the lands of the Wurundjeri people, I grew up in Ballarat on the lands of the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples. I work at Consumer Action Law Centre a community legal centre. I am fortunate to work with three strong and wonderful Aboriginal women at Consumer Action.

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

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is important because it is an agreed outcome from many many days of strong dialogue, consultation and discussion amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from across Australia.

How could a Voice to Parliament improve the lives of your community?

A Voice to Parliament will improve the lives of my community because my community needs to heal the damage caused to Aboriginal peoples in order to be fully healthy and strong.

Why is it important for Indigenous people to have a say in the matters that affect them?

It is crucial for Indigenous people to have a say in the matters that affect them in order to close the Gap. It is a pragmatic idea that has been used in other countries across the world to support Indigenous Peoples.

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the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution because a legislated voice on its own will be too weak and could be repealed by subsequent governments.

Further

1. I believe that the Government must honour its election commitment to a referendum once a model for the Voice has been settled to ensure that a First Nations Voice to Parliament is protected by the Constitution;
2. I believe that enabling legislation for the Voice must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament; and
3. I believe that 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.

Thank you,
Penelope Hill