



27 April 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Co-Design Submission on behalf of Raisers Hub

Raisers Hub is a specialist telemarketing agency partnering with charities to help them achieve their fundraising goals. Our team have partnered with a number of NGO's whose focus is on helping Indigenous communities and culture to thrive.

We believe the Uluru Statement from the Heart is an important first step. It is an invitation to the Australian people to work with First Nations people to create a better future. It is a gift: a strategic roadmap to peace, where First Nations peoples take a rightful place in their own land. It's a moment where all Australians can come together and realise our nation's true potential.

Its essential that Indigenous people have a say in the matters that affect them. First Nations comprise 3% of the population in Australia and that makes it difficult for their voices to be heard in elections and in a Parliament. The Commonwealth has Races & Territories Powers in our constitution that has never been directed at any other racial group in Australia and has been used to pass laws on land rights and cultural heritage laws that negatively impact First Nations, without their consultation or consent. This is in direct conflict with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Australia must enshrine the Voice to Parliament. If we don't, this will go the way of previous bodies such as ATSIC, which can be easily abolished by different governments depending on their priorities. This is unacceptable and damages our ability to find a way through complex issues. First Nations' need a protected voice about their own affairs – we need structural reform and real change to the way decisions are made and by who.

Our key submission points:

1. 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. 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.

Raisers Hub supports the call of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The first essential step to realising its vision is establishing and enshrining a Voice to Parliament.

Yours Faithfully,

Raisers Hub