

Kiera Lindsey

CHIFLEY 2036 NSW

To Co-Design Body

Submission for Co-design process

Hello, I am a 'Creative Historian' who works across Public Histories, Aboriginal Histories and Women's Histories. I write books, do podcasts, give talks and generally live my life in a way where I collaborate with colleagues to 'practice the past' in ways that are engaging, stimulating and exciting. I aim to 'light a fire' in the imagination rather than 'fill a bucket' with facts and figures and dates!

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

This is a Statement from the Heart from the First Nation people of our beautiful country, calling us to a higher version of ourselves. Healing happens when a wound and a wrong is acknowledged and addressed. And a place where healing has occurred becomes a sacred place because pain, injustice, ignorance and cruelty have been replaced with forgiveness, love and hope.

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

A Voice in Parliament is a starting point. It serves as a symbolic platform where Aboriginal people all over the nation can see a strong, powerful person working on their behalf. It is a practical conduit that connects Aboriginal wisdoms and insights with the non-Aboriginal and ensures we have a broader set of perspectives influencing the leadership of the country.

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

Each person in this world deserves the dignity of speaking and being heard. We non-Indigenous Australian can learn so much by listening, and opening ourselves up to ancient ways of understanding and being in the world. This is and always will be their country. They generously share it with us and must honour our hosts with respect and interest.

Why do you think it's important to enshrine the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution, rather than include it only in legislation?

An enshrined Voice to Parliament is a formal and final commitment, it insists that there is no going back only a going way forward and that this way forward will be together, now and for always.

Let love and wisdom, courage and justice guide the swift realisation of this vital initiative.

Yours sincerely,
Kiera Lindsey