



Interim Report to the Australian Government: Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process January 2021

Submission by Alberts to the Interim Voice Report Public Consultation

8th April 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to support the Interim Voice Co-Design Report. This submission is made by Albert Investments Pty Ltd and The Tony Foundation (collectively Alberts). We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and the generous invitation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to walk together towards a better future. We first publicly acknowledged this support by signing the open letter from philanthropy to the First Nations of Australia in 2019. We believe it is time for a First Nations Voice to Parliament protected by the Constitution. Alberts operates on Gadigal Land in Sydney, NSW.

Alberts is a 136-year-old family business that has played a vital role in the evolution of Australia's contemporary media and popular culture since the early days of sheet music and music publishing through to the birth of commercial radio and television and the founding of the Australian pop and rock music industry. Alberts has always believed in the power of music to change lives. In 2012 members of the fifth generation established The Tony Foundation, which strives to improve the lives of young Australians through music.

Having a positive impact across our business is core to who we are. We use our experience, capital, business knowledge and patience to partner with the next generation of pioneers who share our vision for a better tomorrow and having a positive impact. Our four impact pillars include: Pioneering Change; Vibrant Culture; Everyone Welcome; and, a Healthy Thriving World. For us, equality, recognition and voice lie at the heart of positive impact. If we are to move forward as a country we need to recognise, celebrate and give voice to our rich First Nations history. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been the original pioneers in Australia. They have been respectful custodians of this land, sea and waters, and originators of a vibrant culture with traditions of music, song, dance, art, and storytelling passed through generations. However, for too long now their voices have been absent in decisions that directly affect them.

We welcome the government's Interim Co-Design Report and acknowledge the significant work undertaken by the three co-design committees, led by co-chairs Professor Marcia Langton AM and Professor Tom Calma AO. This submission is offered as part of the current public consultation process, as a contribution to the important work of the co-design committees and in support of the many voices of First Nations people in this process.

We acknowledge that this has been a lengthy process. We want the outcomes to help right the wrongs of the past, to create effective change and enable reforms that will really make a difference in the lives of the people most deeply affected. We believe in giving the Australian people an opportunity to show their support through a national referendum for a First Nations Voice to Parliament. And we believe effective, lasting change will come from enshrining the commitment to a First Nations Voice to Parliament within the Constitution.

In response to the Australian Government's Interim Report Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process we support the call for the following three actions:

- The government to honour its 2019 election commitment to hold a referendum once the model for the Voice has been settled;
- Legislation for a First Nations Voice to be passed in the next term of Parliament after a Referendum is held and not before;
- The National Voice membership model to comprise the diverse and rich representation of Indigenous Australians from various walks of life, as well as those established leaders.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our submission.