

Wednesday, 28 April 2021

Voice Secretariat

Reply Paid 83380

Canberra ACT 2601

By email: [Co-designVoice@niaa.gov.au](mailto:Co-designVoice@niaa.gov.au)

Re: Interim Report to the Australian government: Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process

Thank you for considering my submission around this critical issue.

My family came from Warren in the north west of NSW, with my father moving from there to the city back in the 1960's. As a child I remember many stories from my Dad around the mistreatment and plight of the Australian Aborigines who lived near Warren. Stolen children, enslaved youths, poverty, illness and more horror was described.

So it's with great hope that I 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.

We as a country need to make change and make it fast because we have over 200 years to reconcile and repair. An enshrined Voice is the best way to work towards substantive recognition.

The Uluru Statement From the Heart is the call by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for real and practical change. The Uluru Statement calls for the establishment of a constitutionally enshrined Voice to parliament and a Makarrata Commission to undertake processes of treaty-making and truth-telling. This call is critical, it's urgent and it cannot be ignored.

To enable the enshrined Voice and the Makarrata we need the government to honour it's election commitment to a referendum once a model for the Voice has been finalised – ensuring that a First Nations Voice to Parliament is protected by the Australian Constitution.

I am so confident that today, with our incredibly broad multi-cultural Australia a referendum will allow this to be enshrined and become part of the way we heal and grow together as a nation.

Kind regards,

