

Submission from Joanne Patricia Murray's Heart about a Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution

20.04.2021

I was born in Yallourn Victoria and raised in Melbourne (Gardenvale, Chadstone). I have one older sister. I am non-Indigenous as far as I know, my family is broken. I have never met my father (Australian from Geelong VIC). My mother (English) came to Australia in 1958 from United Kingdom at the age of 18 with her mother and 3 sisters, one younger and 2 older by ship.

I was educated at Waverley High School to the level of HSC. I've worked for the past 12 years as a Business Development Manager at Melbourne Mailing.

When I became aware of the Uluru Statement from the Heart I was inspired by the message and I immediately wanted to follow the path being shown to all Australians by Australia's present day First Nations people. There is nothing more important than recognising our shared love of Australia and uniting ourselves and aligning our future upon the basis of this fact. Our happiness, livelihoods and prosperity as a nation depend on protecting our land. Our First nations people are important in this process because they have proven their ability to live harmoniously in this landscape – for a lot more than the 200 or so years they have shared the land – with the newly arrived people (who sadly have done more harm than good to date).

Indigenous people should have a Voice to the Parliament of the land of Australia – it is the other side of the political coin. I want to hear and act on what Aboriginal Australia has to say. We are one Country but the Voices I am hearing come from the Australian Government of the day (political parties with a few token Indigenous ministers). The Indigenous Voice which I will seek out to listen to will be the voice of all the peoples across our regions about a shared future. Without their Voice the future at the expense of our cultural history is no future at all.

I am making a commitment as a citizen and a protector of our First Nations Voice to support this process in any way I can. It will be a continuous thread for future generations to live by and gain strength. Let Aboriginal Ancestors be all our ancestors. Let all our voices unite to be a fundamental part of the national story.

I support the enshrinement of the First Nations Peoples' Voice to Parliament in the Constitution of Australia – bring on the referendum – I want to say a big YES to First Nations inclusion and show them the respect they deserve.

Yours faithfully
Joanne Murray
Wurundjeri Country


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