

Amelia Smillie
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To whom it may concern

Submission to Co-design process

My name is Amelia. I am a student studying a combined degree of Law and Arts with a criminology major. I work in a planning and environmental law firm in the city. I grew up in semi-rural Sydney and now live in Gladesville. I don't have Aboriginal heritage, I am from an English/Irish/Scottish immigrant background, but I am an Australian proud of the history of this incredible country - the real history, that the people here have taken care of the land for millennia, are one of the oldest civilisations on the world, and were amongst the first to discover important technology (not the fake colonial narratives).

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

The Uluru Statement of the Heart is important because it symbolises a consensus amongst the many different Aboriginal nations. Growing up and learning about the terrible discrimination Indigenous people face and the horrible conditions they often live in, I've always wondered what could actually be done. I understand it's perhaps too late to return all the land taken back to its Indigenous owners, and the injustice sometimes feels too enormous to tackle. The Uluru statement from the Heart provides the answer, or at least the beginning steps that must be taken.

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

If the Voice to Parliament is included in legislation only it will be too easy for subsequent governments to change it, or abolish it, as has happened historically. We need permanent change.

Why do you think Indigenous people should have a Voice to Parliament?

Indigenous people should have a Voice to Parliament because they should have a say in the policy that affects them. It's so easy to criticise policies of the past e.g. the Northern Territory Intervention, but it's incredibly scary that this could so easily be repeated. It's time that Indigenous Peoples get to decide what policy is created to govern them.

Please please please please allow this.

Thank you,
Amelia Smillie