

I am a white Australian woman. I didn't learn about the treatment of our indigenous Australians until year 11 and 12 in high school. I studied Aboriginal Studies and was finally educated on the true Australian history. I was deeply ashamed of our history. All children in Australia should learn the true history of Australia.

I believe that the only way the Government can truly apologise to the Indigenous Australians is to empower them. To give them the right to make decisions on what is best for their people.

They can then communicate with the Government in relation to systems and legislation and the effect it is having on their communities. They can advise how it can be amended to help reduce the disadvantage suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

There needs to be more discussion between Elders and the Government and if there is disagreement, a mediation should take place in order to have the disagreement settled.

The Uluru Statement was borne out of a referendum process engaging over 1200 delegates on how to put a voice to Parliament.

We owe it to one of the longest living civilisations to listen and help close the gap on the disadvantage suffered by the first Australians.