



ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Photo credit: Richard Wainwright

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This resource is intended as a source of information and reflection on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. For more resources on Indigenous peoples please visit our [website](#).

It is our hope that you will find all or some of this resource useful and use it in a way that best suits your purposes.

For more resources on a variety of topics, please visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/learn/schools/>

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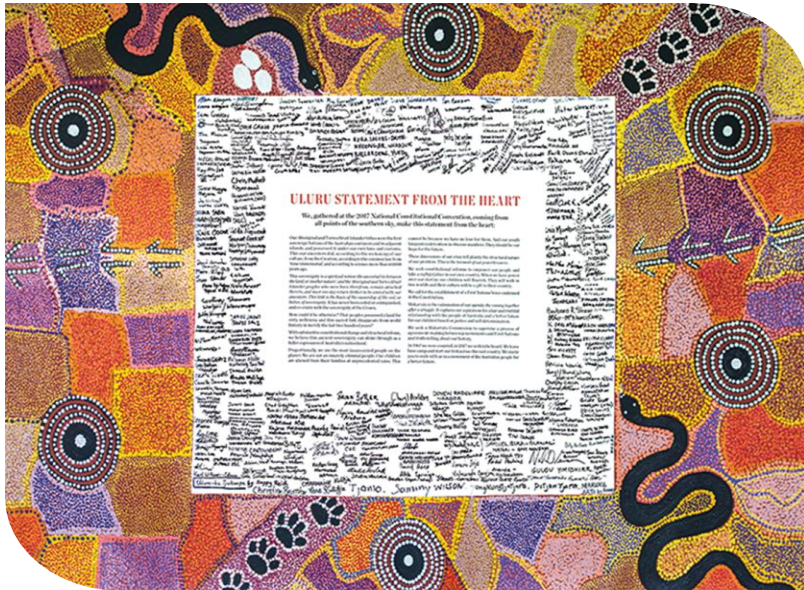
ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART



THE STATEMENT

On May 26th 2017, over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders gathered together to establish a path towards incorporating First Nations voice in the Australian Constitution. This was written as a document titled *the 'Uluru Statement of the Heart'*.

Directed to the Australian people, this historic peace offering was made to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as they call for legislative change and constitutional recognition. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have never been recognised in the Australian constitution since its creation. [Listen to the full statement here.](#)



THE ARTWORK

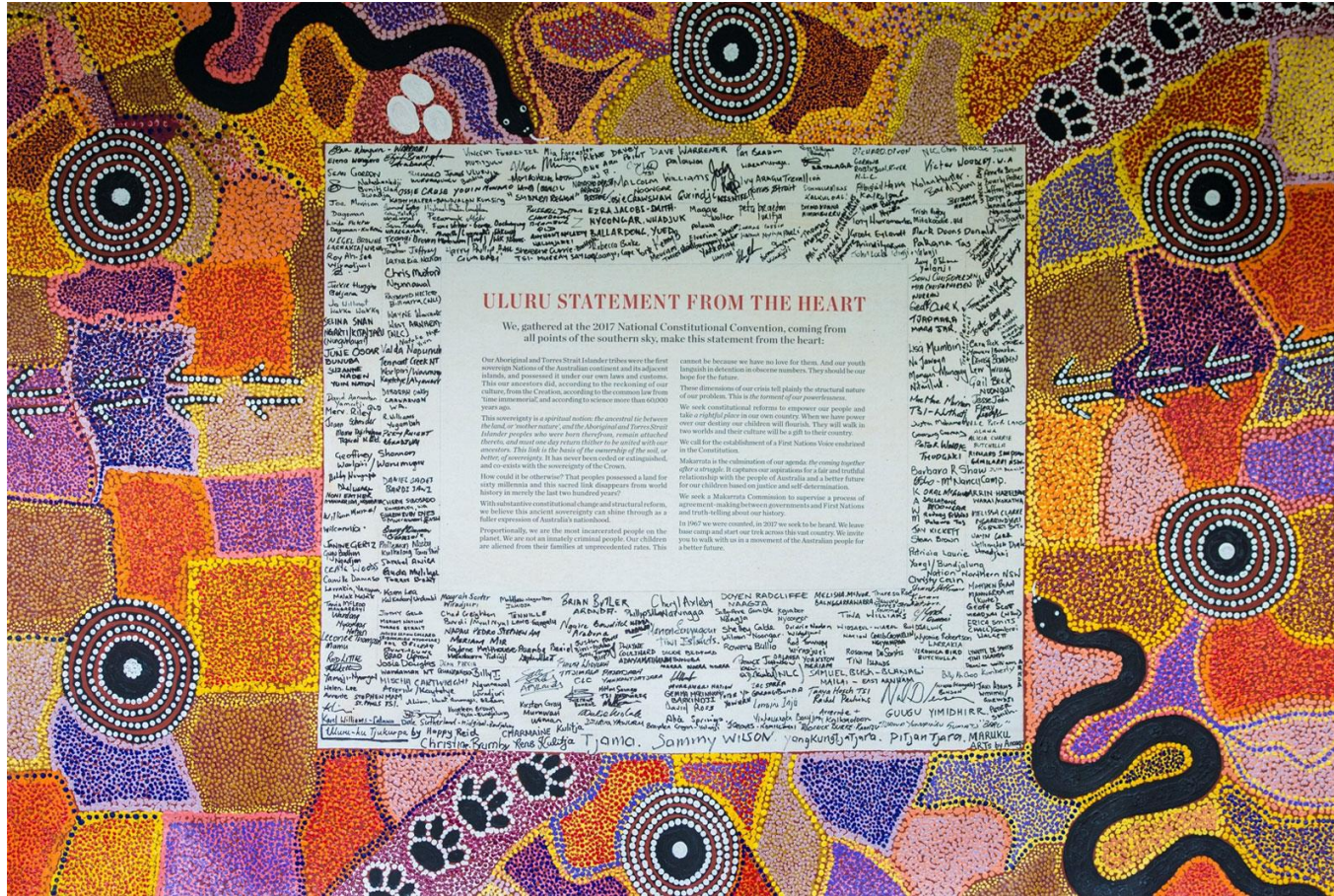
The artwork surrounding the statement was led by Maruku artist, Rene Kulitja, and was painted by Multijulu artists.

The artwork depicts Uluru-Ku Tjukurrpa (The Uluru Story) which has been passed down from many generations, and tells a story of connection from all corners of the land.

[Click on this link](#) and then 'Click to explore' the statement in more depth. Scroll down the page and click on 'The Painting' button.

Annotate the image of the artwork on the next page with the different elements included in the artwork.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART



ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the beginning, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual nation, the ancestral tie between the land, or waters, or air, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were here first, remains attached to the land, and must remain that tie to the land with our ancestors. This tie is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or water, or air, and is never extinguished or extinguishable, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That people possessed a land for eity millennia and that sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationalhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are stolen from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the horror of our presentness.

We seek constitutional reform to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makeplans to the celebration of our agenda, the coming together after struggle. It captures our aspiration for a just and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we work to be heard. We know how wrong and what our truth across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

(The following text contains the names of the signatories, which are partially obscured by the image's resolution and the central text box.)

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Understanding the history

[Watch](#) this video and answer the accompanying questions in order to develop a deeper understanding of the statement.

The questions are located on the following pages.

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VOICE | TREATY | TRUTH



1. Describe what happened in 1901, and a year later, that impacted the voice of First Australians?
2. Who were some of the main advocates fighting for Indigenous voice in parliament in the early 1900's?
3. What were some methods available to First Australians to share their voice?
4. Explain the significant events that took place in the 1960's for Indigenous recognition and rights?
5. Explain what is truly meant to have a 'voice'?

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VOICE | TREATY | TRUTH



1. Define the term 'treaty'.

2. Fill in the below timeline to outline the steps towards treaty and reconciliation with First Australians.

1835-

1977-

1988 –

1992 –

2000-

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

VOICE | TREATY | TRUTH



1. Explain what is meant by the term 'truth' for our First Australians?
2. Explain the progress/significant steps have been made since the release of the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart'?
This will require you to complete your own research.

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VOICE | TREATY | TRUTH



3. Discuss the ongoing impact of 'silence from truth' for our First Australians? Write your response as a letter to the Australian Prime Minister or the Minister of Indigenous Australians.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART



LEARN MORE

Websites

The Uluru Statement

<https://ulurustatement.org/>

From the Heart

<https://fromtheheart.com.au/>

Reconciliation NSW

<https://www.schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au/activities/the-uluru-statement-from-the-heart/>



[TEDx Canberra Video \(19 mins\)](#)

Dean Parkin | The Uluru Statement From The Heart - an idea whose time has come

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CALL TO ACTION

The following are ways that you can play your part to help amplify the voice of our First Nations peoples, ensuring recognition and equality.



WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL MP

Use the guide to help you write a letter to your local member of parliament, calling for First Nations voice to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution.

[Click here for more info.](#)



SIGN A PETITION

Edmund Rice Advocacy (ERA) For Change, is a youth advocacy network, that stands for equality, human rights, and justice and solidarity with all people, and with the earth itself.

Sign their petition urging the Australian Prime Minister to take action on the Uluru statement from the Heart.

[Click here to sign.](#)



CREATE A SIGN OF RESPECT

Research the First Nations country your school is built on, and create a sign of acknowledgement that can be displayed in your school. Consider sharing the signs on your school social media channels.

[Click here for more info.](#)



WRITE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Research the First Nations country your school is built on, and write an acknowledgement of country to be used at class/whole school gatherings.

[Click here for more info.](#)

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART



PRAY

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Loving God,

We pray for Indigenous peoples, the traditional custodians of this Land, and thank them for their inherent care of your precious creation. May we learn from their wisdom, working towards a sustainable future where the land is nurtured, respected and shared by all.

May we listen compassionately to the call of their hearts, so that we may achieve justice, recognition, legislative change and equality for First Australians.

Inspire us to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters on this journey towards a just and free nation, that amplifies our Indigenous people's voice and boldly shares their truth.

In Jesus's name,
Amen.

