

THE 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 Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this 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 nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated 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 torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms 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.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair 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 seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.



We the undersigned (names and addresses supplied) people connected with GPV/KCV offer our support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We ask our families and friends to do the same and call on the Australian Government to urgently address the issues raised in the statement.

1. Adine Neill, Pearcedale
4. Jennifer Sullivan, Skye
7. Andrew Stewart, Melton
10. Kaelan Bradtke, Corowa
13. Ann Renkin, Main Ridge
16. Kaye Deans, Brighton
19. Baillie DeKlijn, Sandringham
22. Kristin Mitchell, Hawthorn
25. Bianca Stewart, Melton
28. Louise O'Brien, Kyneton
31. Brendan Mitchell, Highett
34. Madbh Mezzati, Ballarat
37. Cameron McLeish, Broadbeach
40. Mario Ginkle, Beechworth
43. Catherine McLeish, Brunswick
46. Maureen Humes, Morphet
49. Charlie Stewart, Melton
52. Naomi Whyley, Point Cook
55. David Whitby, Seaford
58. Noreen Kelly, Williamstown
61. Dr Allan Mawdsley, Port Melbourne
64. Patrick Doquile, Scarsdale
67. Emmalin Partington, Mordialloc
70. Rebecca Saville, Sandringham
73. Gemma Bryant, Parkville
76. Sandra Laird, Dennigton
79. Heather Phillips Mount Eliza
82. Shirley Frost, Bentleigh
85. Helen Hanily, Sandringham
88. Steven Stewart, Melton
91. Imogen Taylor, Kensington
94. Val Bourne, Brighton
97. Jan Kenny, Shepparton
2. Jennifer Gaskel, Sandringham
5. Andrew McGeac, Clifton Hill
8. Julie-Anne Garland, Ormond
11. Ann McGeachin, Clifton Hill
14. Kate Doquile, Balnarring
17. Asher DeKlijn, Sandringham
20. Kristin Mitchell, Hawthorn
23. Barbara Richardson, Beaumaris
26. Lois Tabe, Kurunjang
29. Brenda Fahey, Gisborne
32. Lyn Horseurgh, Cheltenham
35. Bronwyn Whyley, St Leonards
38. Margaret Danckhert, Brighton
41. Carolyn Ravensdale, Brighton
44. Mary Mitchell, Highett
47. Catriona Brown, Corowa
50. Naomi Hicks, Morphet
53. Danielle Clinch, Morphet
56. Noelle Mawdsley, Port Melbourne
59. Diana Commerford, Bentleigh
62. Patrick Danckhert, Brighton
65. Ellouise Shanahan, Parkville
68. Raine Dinale, Mornington
71. Gedda Burke, Cheltenham
74. Rose Gahli, Berwick
77. Hayley Cowley, Bendigo
80. Shiela Whitby, Seaford
83. Helen Corcoran, Seaford
86. Stacey Harris, Brunswick
89. Ida Mitchell, Brighton
92. Trish Stevens, Parkdale
95. James Grandin, Dingley
98. Wendy Stirling, Cheltenham
100. Zoe McLeish, Parkville
3. Alexandra Grantham, Corowa
6. Jenny Cheshire, Seaford
9. Angus Picking, Parkville
12. Karen Laube, Burwood
15. Anne L McLeish OA, Kensington
18. Kerrie Mannix, Ballarat
21. Barb Doquile, Scarsdale
24. Libby Gore, Bendigo
27. Bradley Dawson, Castlemaine
30. Luke Corcoran Smith, Elwood
33. Bron Borradaile, Sandringham
36. Maree Ginkle, Beechworth
39. Carole Cheng, Brighton
42. Martin Taylor, Kensington
45. Catherine Papadopolous, Seaford
48. Merril Cully, McKinnon
51. Claire Purcell, Sandringham
54. Nathan Miles, Melton
57. Dee Papadopolous, Seaford
60. Olivia Carey, Sandringham
63. Elizabeth DeKlijn, Sandringham
66. Peter Renkin, Main Ridge
69. Fleur Ward, Brighton
72. Ron Doquile, Brighton
75. Georgia Whyley, Point Cook
78. Sandy Harbison, Ballarat
81. Helen Brown, Parkville
84. Simone Anger, Seaford
87. Hilary Bray, Seaford
90. Sue Witham, Eagle Point
93. Isabella Sheppers, Seaford
96. Vivienne Corcoran, Elwood
99. Jan Wilson, Bentleigh

