

# All you need to know about the Uluru Statement from the Heart

## What is the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

It is an invitation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to all Australians to ‘walk with us in a movement for a better future’. It seeks to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are acknowledged and listened to at the decision-making tables and in all law-making processes.

## Voice Treaty Truth

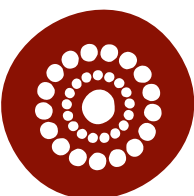
There are three core components to the Uluru Statement From the Heart: Voice, Treaty and Truth.



**Voice** refers to a First Nations Voice, guaranteed by the Constitution, to provide a permanent platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices to be heard by Parliament. Its role is to amplify the voice of First Nations opinions, enshrined in the constitution through a referendum (although not legally binding).



A **Treaty** is an agreement between First Nations peoples and State and Federal Governments of Australia. The call for Treaty aims to set in motion both national acknowledgement of, and legal protection for, the rights and interests of First Nations peoples. A number of state Treaty processes are already underway. Australia is the only Commonwealth nation yet to sign a treaty with First Nations peoples.



**Truth** telling: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have long called for a comprehensive process of truth telling about Australia’s history that acknowledges both the periods of colonial conflict and dispossession and the strength and resilience of First Nations peoples and cultures.

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## How was the Uluru Statement from the Heart created?

Hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples agreed on the Uluru Statement in May 2017 at Uluru after thirteen sessions of dialogue across the country, each made up of approximately 100 representatives from local Traditional Owners, First Nations leaders and community-based organisations.

## Four years on, why are we still talking about this?

Opinion polls show that Australians support a constitutionally enshrined Voice, but the government is yet to hold a referendum. The Prime Minister could commit to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and call a referendum for a Voice tomorrow, and until such action has been taken we will continue to call for it.

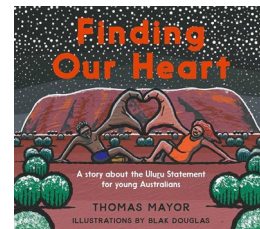
## Why does a First Nations Voice need to be protected by the Constitution?

A constitutionally protected Voice to Parliament will ensure that it cannot be abolished by governments if their priorities change or they don't like its advice. A constitutional Voice will deliver the authority and certainty required for a durable First Nations Voice on laws and policies that affect them. Government has suggested a legislated Voice, but this is not in line with the wishes of Australia's First Nations peoples.

## What can you do?

Here are five ways you can show your support of the Uluru Statement From the Heart:

1. Sign your name at [ulurustatement.org](http://ulurustatement.org) and [Fromtheheart.com.au](http://Fromtheheart.com.au)
2. **Write to your Minister** and MPs that you support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and that it is time for a referendum.
3. Read **Everything You Need to Know about the Uluru Statement from the Heart** by Megan Davis and George Williams or **Finding Our Heart** by Thomas Mayor (suitable for kids!)



4. Ask your workplace, sporting or other club or association to **endorse** the Uluru Statement from the Heart and share this support publicly
5. Hold an **event raising awareness** about the Uluru Statement.