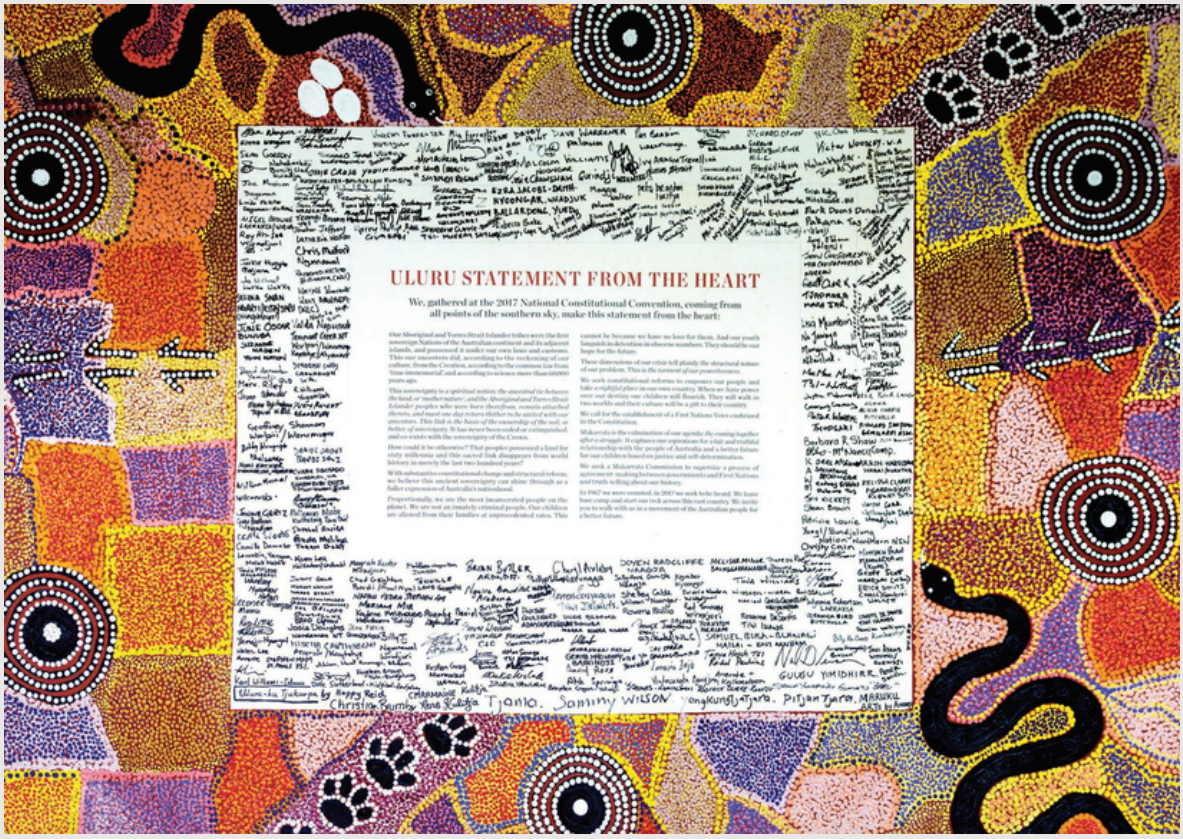
THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

RESOURCE KIT FOR TEACHERS



This Resource Kit is compiled by the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education to assist teachers, students, and all members of the school community, to understand the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Target Group: Upper Primary-Senior Secondary

Edmund Rice Centre

Awareness. Advocacy. Action

CONTENTS

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART 3

A Journey of Solidarity 4

Introduction 4

Note to Presenters 4

The Uluru Statement from the Heart Activities 5

The Uluru Statement from the Heart 6

What is the Uluru Statement from the Heart? 6

The Referendum Council 7

Explaining the Uluru Statement from the Heart 8

Raising Awareness About the Uluru Statement from the Heart 12

What Does the Uluru Statement from the Heart Call For? 13

Voice to Parliament 13

A Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution 13

Co-Design of the First Nation Voice 14

A Referendum to Change the Constitution 15

Changing the Constitution 16

ER 4 Uluru Artwork 17

ER 4 Uluru Artwork Explained 17

ER 4 Uluru Artwork Activities 18

Creative Arts Activities for Raising Awareness About the Uluru Statement from the Heart 19

Further Actions 25

Resources 25

Video Clips 25

Websites 25

Books 25

Songs 26

Additional Visual Materials 26

Further Reading or Discussion 26

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 aliened 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.

Edmund Rice Centre
Awareness. Advocacy. Action

A Journey of Solidarity

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is written as an invitation to the people of Australia to come together with First Nations Peoples to achieve constitutional recognition and structural reform in the relationship between the Commonwealth Government and Indigenous Peoples through Voice, Treaty and Truth. The aspirations of First Nations Peoples are for a fair, truthful and reconciled relationship between First Nations and the people of Australia.

Introduction

The Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education believes that people can change their world through education. It begins with awareness raising, which leads to advocacy and social action. For the Edmund Rice Centre, community education is fundamental to understanding the shape and nature of our unequal world, to interacting with that world as well as imagining and shaping a different world.

This Resource Kit for Teachers is intended to raise awareness and understanding of the Uluru Statement from the Heart so that compassionate Australians can act to support the healing of our nation.

Note to Presenters

"Nothing About Us Without Us"

To understand the stories and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, it is vital that wherever possible local First Nations Peoples are invited to participate. In the case of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, it is highly recommended that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who understand and believe in the goals of the Uluru Statement should be invited to lead and/or participate in the discussions and creative activities. The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation to share the story while listening with the ears and the heart. And then to decide: **"What is it that I can do to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart?"**

In the reading and learning about the Uluru Statement from the Heart that we at the Edmund Rice Centre have been engaged with, the word **'invitation'** is often used. The following paragraph is presented by the From the Heart.com.au website: **'The Uluru Statement is an invitation from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: *"We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future"*. It calls for structural reforms including constitutional change to establish a Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution.'** The word **invite/invitation** is therefore an important consideration when raising awareness/teaching/learning and presenting/performing, or producing creative pieces relating to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

You will also come across the word **Makarrata** when learning about the Uluru Statement From the Heart. Makarrata is a Yolgnu word meaning **'a coming together after a struggle'**. A **Makarrata Commission** would have two roles: **supervising a process of agreement-making and overseeing a process of truth-telling**.

By reading and listening to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, we learn a great deal about the story of First Nations Peoples and what it is we are all being invited to support and promote.

Uluru Statement from the Heart Activities

- *Read the Uluru Statement from the Heart* (See Page 3)
- *View video clip by Midnight Oil* - **Uluru Statement from the Heart (Read by First Nations collaborators)**
- *View the Power Point slides* (Pages 7-11) explaining terms related to The Uluru Statement from the Heart.
- For information about the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the reforms of a Constitutionally enshrined First Nation Voice and a Makarrata Commission, see **https://www.ilc.unsw.edu.au/uluru-statement-heart**
- For further information about the Uluru Statement from the Heart, see **https://law.unimelb.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/2791940/Uluru-Statement-from-the-Heart-Information-Booklet.pdf**

Helpful websites

- **www.fromtheheart.com.au**
- **www.ulurustatement.org**
- *View film clip* - **https://vimeo.com/190037231**

First Nations Peoples and Reconciliation: Interview with Senator Patrick Dodson and ERC Director Phil Glendenning - **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTZHsxl-U5o**







What is
The Uluru Statement from the Heart?

The Uluru Statement from the Heart originated from a series of regional dialogues with Indigenous Peoples conducted by the Referendum Council between December 2016 and May 2017. Dialogues were held in Hobart, Broome, Dubbo, Darwin, Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Ross River, Adelaide, Brisbane, Thursday Island and Canberra. The Referendum Council dialogues culminated in a First Nations National Constitutional Convention on 23-26 May 2017 at Uluru in Central Australia. This convention produced the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an Indigenous roadmap for Constitutional recognition and to reform the relationship between Indigenous People and Australian Governments. It expresses the desires of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for substantive reform to the Australian Constitution according to Indigenous priorities.

To learn about the journey to the Uluru Statement of the Heart, see:
https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/the-journey-to-the-uluru-statement-from-the-heart

The key elements of the Uluru Statement are:

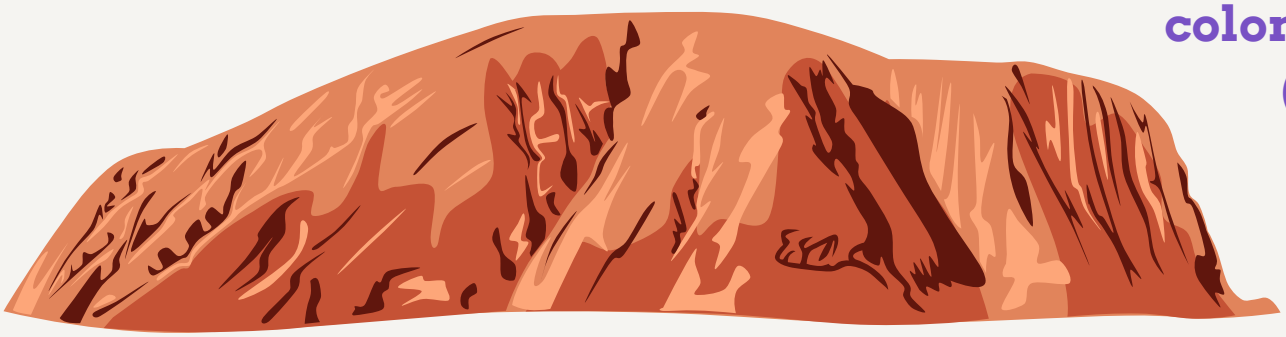


(1) **Enshrining a First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution (*Voice*).**



(2) **The establishment of a Makarrata Commission to supervise agreement-making with Government (*Treaty*).**

(3) **The Makarrata Commission to oversee truth-telling about Australia's history of colonisation (*Truth*).**



The Referendum Council

The Referendum Council was established by the Australian Government in December 2015 and was the continuation of a process for Constitutional change to recognise Indigenous Peoples in the Australian Constitution. In November 2010 Prime Minister Julia Gillard established an expert panel to report on possible options to enable Indigenous Constitutional recognition and to advise on the level of support for each option. In its 2012 report the expert panel identified strong community support for changing the Constitution to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The Referendum Council was appointed to advise the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition to lead a dialogue with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and engage with the broader community about Constitutional recognition and reform. In undertaking its work, the Referendum Council had to pay close attention to previous processes which included: the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2015, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Act of Recognition Review Panel 2014 and the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians 2012.

In its report of 30 June 2017, the Referendum Council made **two recommendations**:

(1) That a referendum be held to provide for an Indigenous representative Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament in the Australian Constitution.

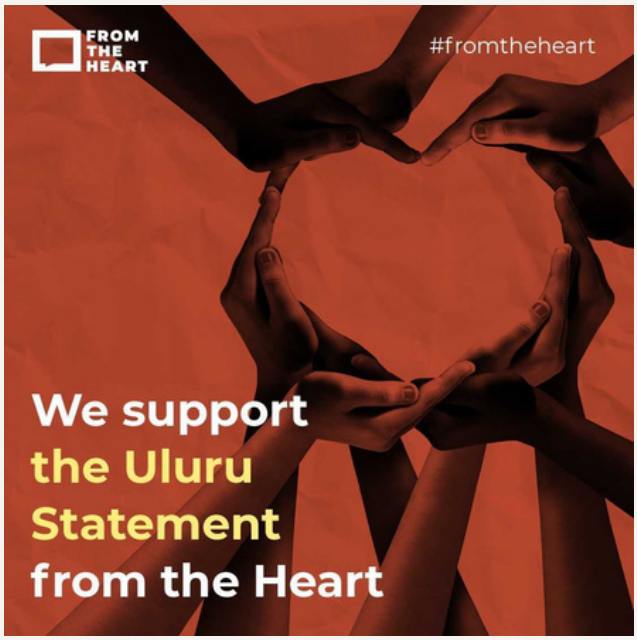
(2) That all Australian Parliaments enact legislation to articulate a symbolic statement of recognition.

A Constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice would provide a guarantee that a First Nations Advisory Body would have power under the Constitution to advise Parliament on Indigenous matters. However, such recognition requires the Australian Constitution to be amended by referendum. This means the people of Australia would vote to insert words into the Constitution to recognise such an advisory body.

A Declaration of Recognition can be made through legislation passed by Federal, State and Territory Parliaments. It would only be a symbolic and unifying statement of recognition expressing Australia's shared history, heritage, and aspirations. It would bring together Australia's First Peoples heritage and culture, Australia's British institutions, and Australia's multicultural society.

To view the final report of the Referendum Council, see:
https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/final-report.html

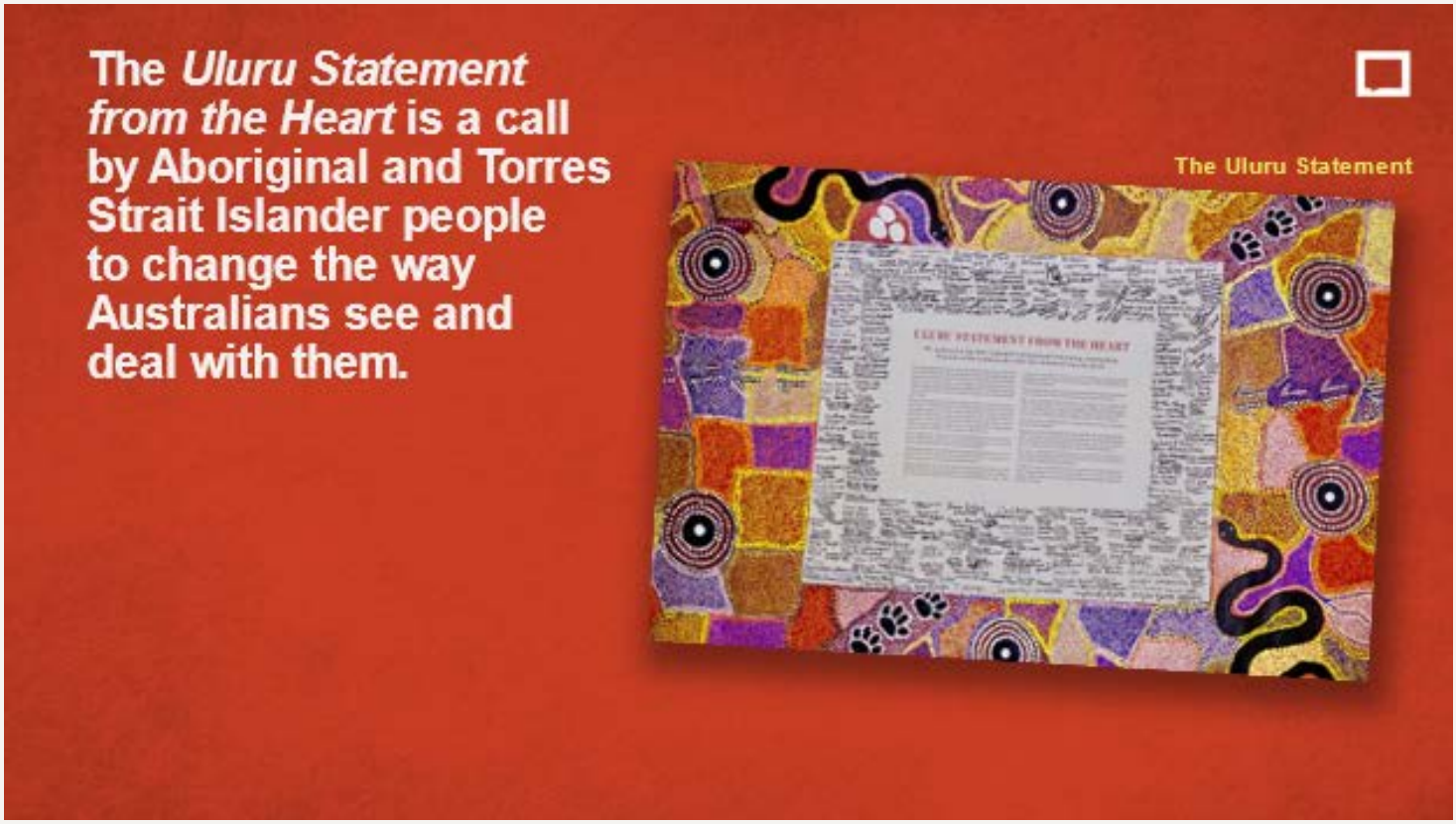




Resources provided by **fromtheheart.com.au**

Explaining
The Uluru Statement from the Heart

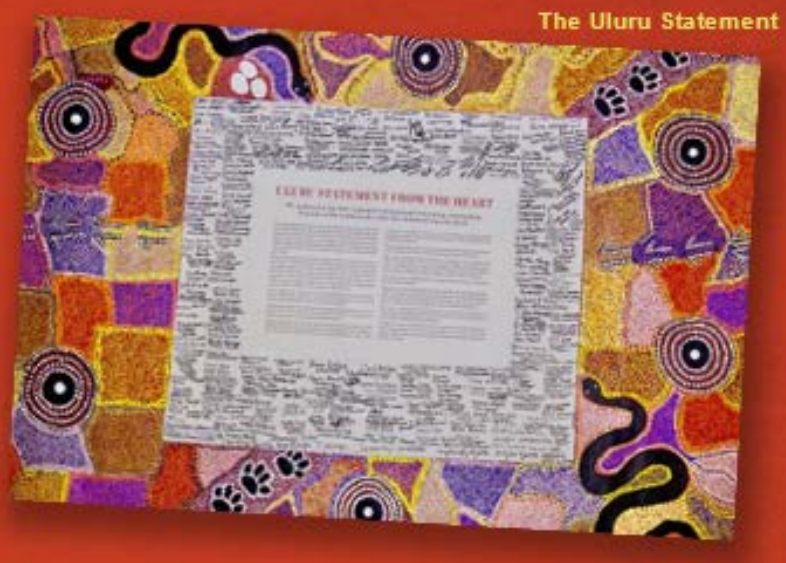




Slides provided by **ulurustatement.org**

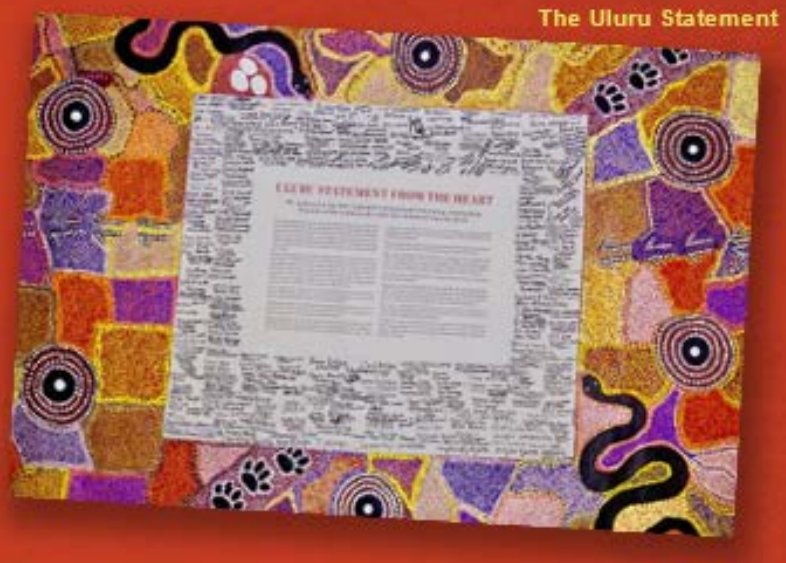
Explaining
The Uluru Statement from the Heart

It is a call for fair and practical change, to include them in the Australian Constitution and give them the recognition that they deserve, having been in Australia for over 60,000 years.



The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* calls for these changes:

1. A Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution.
2. A Makarrata Commission to supervise treaty-making and a process of truth-telling about our nation's history.



Slides provided by **ulurustatement.org**

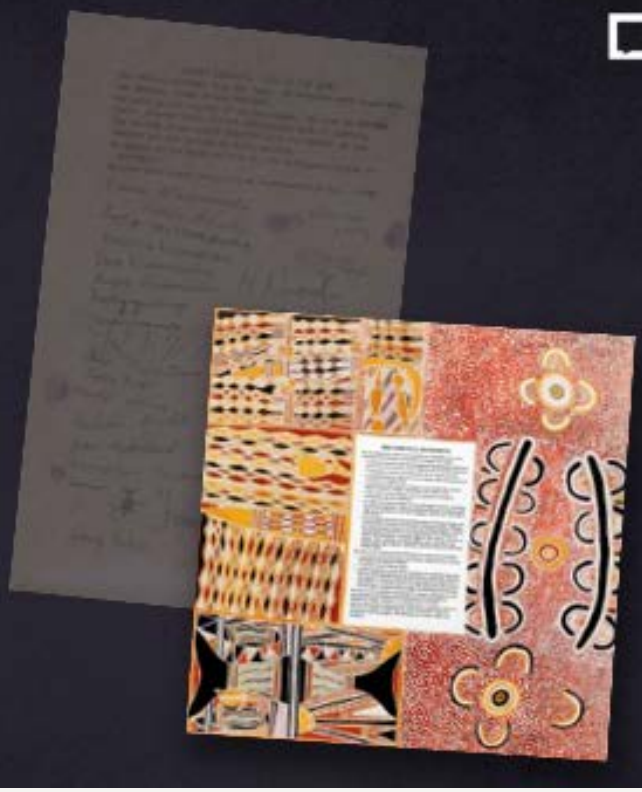
Explaining
The Uluru Statement from the Heart

History of the *Uluru Statement*...

The journey towards the Uluru Statement has been long and challenging.

In 1937, Yorta Yorta elder William Cooper petitioned the King of England, George VI, calling for Indigenous representation in parliament.

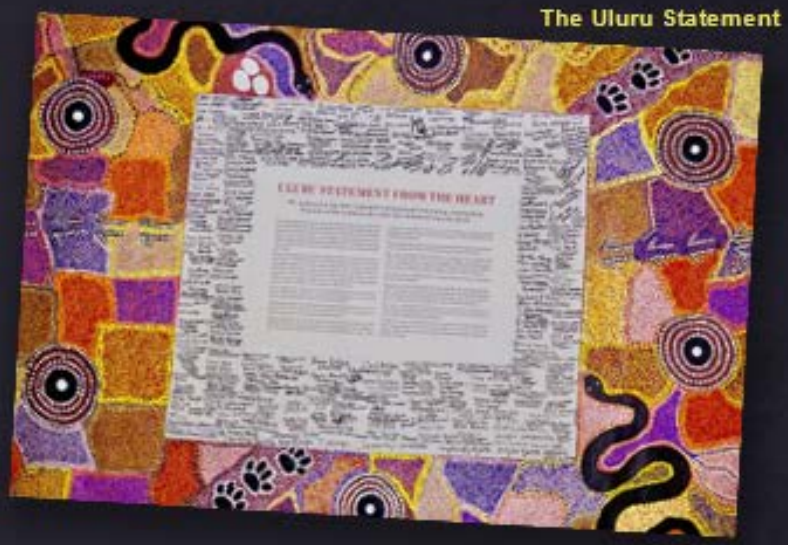
There have also been a number of petitions and statements that have called for change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These include the Yirrkala Bark Petitions (1963), the Larrakia Petition (1972) and the Barunga Statement (1988).



History of the *Uluru Statement*...

In 2015, the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader announced that the establishment of the Referendum Council. This lead to 12 First Nations Regional Dialogues, engaging over 1200 Indigenous representatives.

The Referendum Council process lead to the delivery of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* .



Slides provided by **ulurustatement.org**

Explaining
The Uluru Statement from the Heart

A Voice to Parliament

A Voice to Parliament was proposed by the *Uluru Statement* and is intended to be enshrined in the Constitution. It will...

1. Give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders a say over the policies and programmes that impact them, such as health and education.

2. Give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders a say over the legislation that the Government could introduce that impact them.



Makarrata Commission

A Makarrata Commission would be established to supervise a process of agreement-making or treaties between Governments and First Nations people, and undertake a process of truth-telling about our history.

A Makarrata Commission would be established after a Voice to Parliament is enshrined in the Australian Constitution. This is because a Voice would be able to advise the Government on the best format and way to establish a Makarrata Commission.



Slides provided by **ulurustatement.org**

Raising Awareness About the Uluru Statement from the Heart

Preparation

Display the colour posters of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and relevant posters from the toolkit around the school/ in the library/in the staffroom/school hall. These can be accessed via the following links:

- **https://fromtheheart.com.au/resources/toolkit/**
- **https://ulurustatement.org/supporter-kit**

Staff/Class Activities

- Distribute a copy of the Uluru Statement from the Heart to staff/students (Page 3). Allow everyone time to read it quietly.
- Staff meeting/staff reflection/class activity or school assembly: invite 12 people to read 1 paragraph of the Uluru Statement from the Heart each. (The readers will need time to prepare, so that it can be read reflectively and with meaning.)
- Display the Uluru Statement from the Heart as a PowerPoint slide in the background for an Assembly.
- Present the **Dean Parkin TEDx Canberra YouTube video**. What are the key points in this presentation?

Staff or School/Class or Group Student Reflections

To promote the Uluru Statement from the Heart Midnight Oil have released a seven-track mini-album ***The Makarrata Project*** which features musical collaborations with First Nations artists including Jessica Mauboy, Troy Cassar-Daley, Dan Sultan and Tasman Keith. This project includes songs as well as a reading of the Uluru Statement from the Heart by Pat Anderson AO, Stan Grant, Adam Goodes, Ursula Yovich and Troy Cassar-Daley.

- Present the **YouTube clip from the Makarrata Project**: this is the reading of the Uluru Statement from the Heart by Pat Anderson AO, Stan Grant, Adam Goodes, Ursula Yovich and Troy Cassar-Daley, with accompanying visuals

OR

- Present the **reading of the Uluru Statement from the Heart from the Makarrata Project and the song *Come on Down*** from Midnight Oil featuring Troy-Cassar-Daley. Give people a copy of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, so they can focus on it as it is being read and then listen to the song as well.

Questions for Reflection

- What are some of the key words/phrases and images that resonate with you as you read/listen to the Uluru Statement from the Heart?
- Research what the images and artwork around the Uluru Statement from the Heart represent?
- In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture what does the symbol of fire mean?
- What are some of the things that are special about a campfire?
- What could you bring to the Campfire of Humankind?

What Does the Uluru Statement from the Heart Call For?

(1) A representative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander body to be enshrined in Australia's Constitution. This will be a representative First Nations Voice to Parliament to allow Indigenous People a permanent participatory role in Australian democracy. The importance of a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament is to address Indigenous powerlessness and ensure that Indigenous Peoples are formally consulted about laws and policies being made about them in Parliament, but importantly it is to ensure that Government can no longer abolish a national Indigenous representative Voice as has happened in the past. The First Nations Voice would provide advice to the Parliament on Indigenous matters. It would respect parliament, have no veto, and would operate through political processes.

(2) A Makarrata Commission to supervise the process of agreement-making between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and government, and to facilitate Truth-Telling about Australian history. 'Makarrata' is a Yolngu word from Northeast Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory meaning an act of peace making or reconciliation between individuals or groups after a struggle. The core meaning of the word is that wrong has been done and it needs to be made right. An agreement-making mechanism or Treaty were proposals strongly endorsed by the Indigenous dialogues. A Makarrata Commission would be like a tribunal and could be established by the Australian Government. The need for Truth-Telling about Australia's history of colonisation was also emphasised in the Indigenous dialogues. Indigenous Peoples regard Truth-Telling as an essential element of reconciliation. The Commission would provide a pathway for truth and reconciliation.

A Voice to Parliament Enshrined in the Constitution

(1) Constitutional enshrinement means that the core functions of the First Nations Voice will be included in the Constitution, and this will enable the parliament to pass legislation to determine the composition of the Voice, its powers, and procedures. Therefore, the Voice would be entrenched in the Constitution to provide legitimacy and ensure that the Voice has legitimacy as an institution of Australian democracy. However, legislation would control how the Voice is constituted and how it operates. But Constitutional enshrinement requires a referendum.

(2) The Voice to Parliament will allow Indigenous Australians to contribute to provide advice on matters of national significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This will include the establishment of a Makarrata Commission. The Voice will enable Indigenous People to have a say over legislation, policies and programs that relate to their social, spiritual, and economic wellbeing. Indigenous People will bring their knowledge and experience about the impact of legislation and policy on their communities.

(3) The Voice must be enshrined in the Constitution to insulate it from partisan politics and help compel the Government to listen to Indigenous Communities. To be enshrined in the Constitution it must be supported by Australians voting 'Yes' at a referendum and would be designed to provide input before the passing of legislation and policy. A Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution, will provide legitimacy and authority of the Voice so that its role is taken seriously by Parliament and Government. It will also prevent Parliament from abolishing the Voice.

Co-design of the First Nations Voice

- Following the Referendum Council recommendations, the Commonwealth Government rejected the idea of a constitutionally recognised First Nation Voice to Parliament on the basis that it was a radical change and not consistent with fundamental principles of Australian Democracy. Indigenous People were outraged at the Government's attitude because the Voice was only considered to be an advisory body to the national Parliament and therefore could not limit the power of Parliament.

- In March 2018 the Commonwealth Government established a Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The Select Committee looked at matters raised in the Uluru Statement from the Heart including the establishment of the First Nation Voice, The Makarrata Commission, Truth-Telling and other proposals for constitutional change. In its final report of November 2018, **the Select Committee made four recommendations to the Australian Government:** to **(1) initiate a process of co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for the First Nations Voice**; **(2) consider legislative, executive, and constitutional options to establish the Voice**; **(3) support the process of Truth-Telling**; and **(4) consider the establishment of a National Resting Place to be a place of commemoration, healing and reflection**.

- In October 2019, following the 2018 Select Committee recommendations, the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, announced a two-stage Indigenous Voice co-design process to develop a model to enhance local and regional decision-making and provide a Voice for Indigenous Peoples. Stage one of the co-design process was to develop the proposals or presentation to the Australian Government and stage two to consult on proposals with all Australians to inform a final proposal to the Australian Government. In November 2019, the Minister established a Senior Advisory Group to guide the process and ensure the co-design process represented the best interests of Indigenous Peoples.

- In January 2020 a National Co-design Group was established to develop models for a national Voice including a link to local and regional voices. In March 2020 the Minister established the Local & Regional Co-design Group to articulate effective regional mechanisms for improved local and regional decision-making by Indigenous Peoples in partnership with governments.

- In July 2021 Indigenous Voice Co-design Process Final Report was provided to the Australian Government. The model of an Indigenous Voice outlined in the Final Report involves 35 Local & Regional Voices and an overarching National Voice that will provide advice to Parliament and Government. Local and Regional Voices will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance arrangements at the regional level and will draw its members from local communities, groups, and organisations within the region. The National Voice will comprise 24 members who will be selected by Local & Regional Voices. There will be two members from each state and territory as well as the Torres Strait Islands. There will be a third member representation for remote areas due to their unique needs for NSW, NT, QLD, WA, and SA and one for mainland Torres Strait Islander People.

- In 2022 **the newly elected Labor Government promised to implement the Uluru Statement by formally enshrining an Indigenous Voice to Parliament** and **establishing a Makarrata Commission responsible for Treaty making and Truth telling** processes. These promises have been reiterated by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the Garma Festival of Traditional Cultures in July 2022, announcing Australia's first referendum in twenty years in an attempt to change the Constitution to appoint an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

    - For more information on the promises made by the Labor Government, see: **https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/may/19/labor-promises-to-move-quickly-on-indigenous-voice-to-parliament-referendum-if-elected**
    - For further information on the Co-design process and the model for an Indigenous Voice, see the Final Report: **https://voice.niaa.gov.au/**
    - For a review of the Indigenous Voice Co-design process, see: **https://aph.org.au/2022/03/review-of-the-the-indigenous-voice-co-design-process-final-report-to-the-australian-government/**

Co-design

In the Final Report the Senior Advisory Group made seven recommendations to the Australian Government. These are:

(1) An Indigenous Voice to be progressed by implementing the Local and Regional Voices and National Voice as outlined in the Final Report.

(2) The importance of involving all levels of Government in Local & Regional Voices to be recognised and formal commitments to be negotiated with governments as soon as practical.

(3) It is important to ensure sustainability and security for an Indigenous Voice and this requires funding certainty and appropriate safeguards as part of any enabling legislation.

(4) Recognise the need to work in partnership to progress implementation. This includes ensuring the effectiveness and legitimacy of the Indigenous Voice.

(5) Recognise the need for a comprehensive communication strategy to support community understanding, ensure transparent and consistent and prepare for implementation.

(6) Note that submissions (88%) received in the consultation process expressed support for the enshrinement of the Indigenous Voice in the Constitution.

(7) The Final Report to be released to the public.

A Referendum To Change the Constitution



The Constitution can only be changed by a majority of Australians. Hence the Constitution cannot be altered without approval of the people of Australia. Therefore, to recognise and enshrine a First Nation Voice in the Constitution a majority of Australians in Australia and a majority (at least two thirds) of votes in each state must vote 'yes' in a referendum to change the Constitution.

Before a referendum is held both houses of a Commonwealth Parliament must pass legislation outlining the proposed changes to the Constitution. The referendum must then be held no sooner than two months and no later than six months after the legislation is passed by Parliament.

The Governor-General issues a writ for a referendum to be held and it will be like an election held on a Saturday. After the legislation for a referendum is passed by Parliament the 'yes' case is prepared by parliamentary members and senators who support the proposed change and a 'no' case is prepared by members and senators who oppose the proposed change.

Changing the Constitution

Section 128 of the Constitution states that any proposal to amend the Australian Constitution must be passed by an absolute majority in both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament. Further, at a referendum the alteration to the Constitution must be approved by a 'double majority'. This means by:

- A national majority of voters in the states and territories.
- A majority of voters in a majority of states (at least four out of six states).

The votes of people living in the ACT, NT or any Australian external territories count towards the national majority only.

For further information about changing the Constitution to recognise First Nations peoples, see: **https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/constitutional-reform-fact-sheet-recognising-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-people**

For information about referendums, see: **https://peo.gov.au/understand-our-parliament/having-your-say/elections-and-voting/referendums-and-plebiscites/**

Questions

- What did you learn?
- What questions do you have?





ER4 Uluru Artwork



ER4 Uluru Artwork Explained

This artwork is by Aboriginal artist David Riley. David attended St James College in Brisbane. The artwork symbolises the Edmund Rice Network joining with Aboriginal and Torres Islander People to support the invitation arising out of the "From the Heart Uluru Statement." The background on the canvas uses dot art to symbolise the various homelands of Aboriginal and Torres Islander Peoples that make up Australia.

Silver dots - fresh water people
Blue dots - salt water people
Green dots - grassland/forest people
Ochre dots - desert people

The 6 large circles symbolise the presence of the Edmund Rice Network in the 6 Australian states whilst the 2 smaller circles represent the Edmund Rice presence in the ACT and NT. In these yarning circles people are gathering to listen to the invitation of the Uluru Statement. Small white dots join all the circles in the spirit of collaboration and support for the goals of the Uluru Statement. The black dots signify the on-going relationship with First Nations People - journeying together in solidarity towards the large circle in the centre which symbolises the Federal Parliament of Australia.

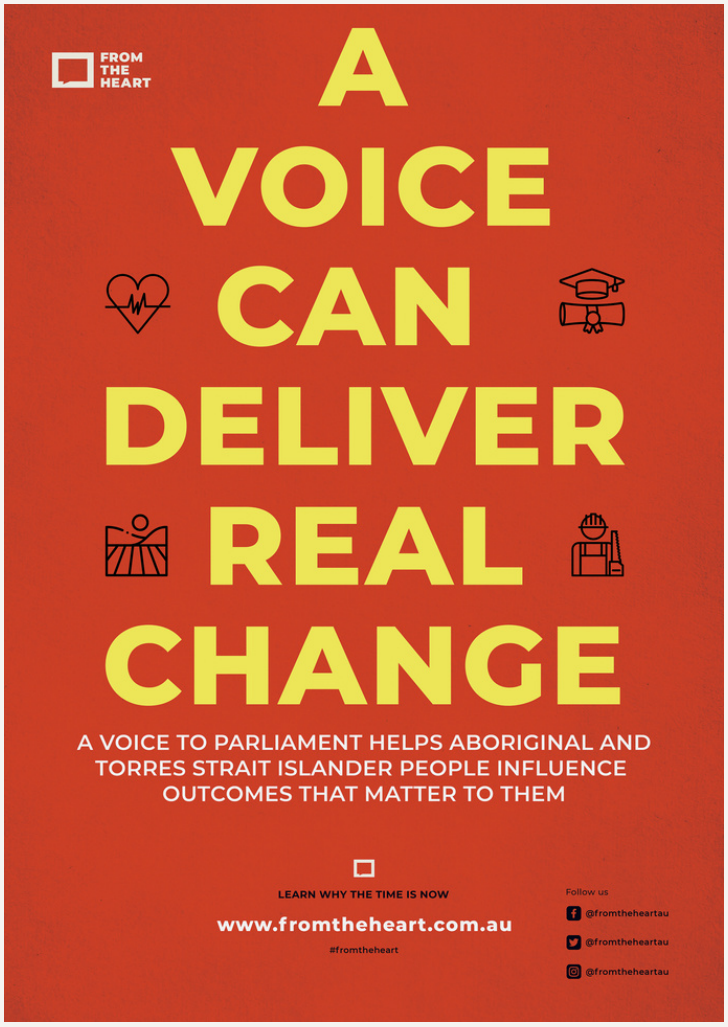
Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Peoples need to be included in the central circle in decision-making about their lands, their spiritualities and any matters that affect them. The circle of Government is now enlarged by the inclusion of the First Nations Peoples having a Voice to the Parliament. Gold, silver and black colours signify the country as a whole is enriched by the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Peoples in sharing power.

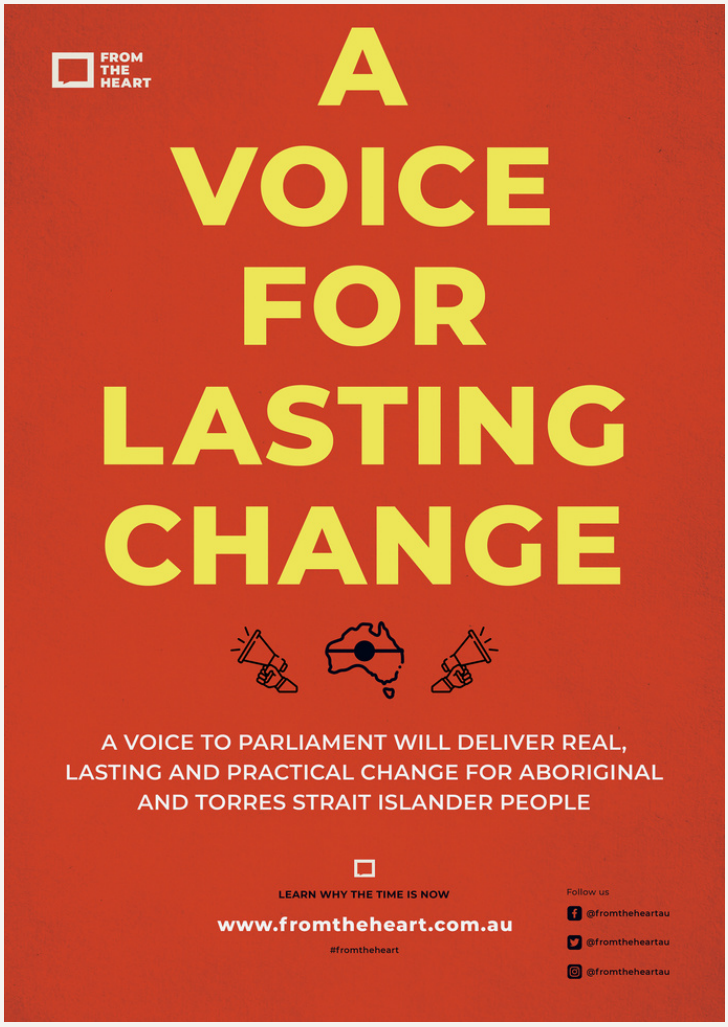
ER4 Uluru Artwork Activities

- *Play video clip* - David Riley explains what his artwork ER 4 Uluru means: **https://youtu.be/_7x_qQL4syM**
- Document Explaining the Uluru Statement from the Heart (see pages 8-11)

Questions

- What do you like about David's artwork? What symbols speak to you?
- How did you feel when you looked at David Riley's artwork and read the explanation of the artwork?
- Why do you think Indigenous art is important in spreading a message?
- What key messages did you identify in David's artwork?
- How do you think you are connected as a member of the Edmund Rice Network?





Creative Arts Activities for Raising Awareness About the Uluru Statement from the Heart



The arts can be a powerful way to raise awareness and help build the skills and capacity for social change, by inspiring people to move their understanding from the head to the heart and then to some form of social action.

PROMOTING THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Advertisements are a useful tool used to promote a wide range of products. We see commercials everywhere - in buses and shop windows, on our phones and televisions. Advertisements take a wide range of forms, from videos to posters or radio jingles. They are designed to spread a certain message: to buy a car, to vote for a political party, to attend an event or raise awareness about an issue.

- It is now your turn to take up the challenge of advertising by writing and producing your own advertisement to promote the Uluru Statement from the Heart.
- This can involve any medium you choose using colour graphics and imagery: a billboard, a poster, a video - the possibilities are endless!

ARTS ACTIVITY (Can be an Individual, Group, or Class Activity)

The last sentence of the Uluru Statement from the Heart is: 'We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.' Develop and present a creative performance/production piece to encourage people to examine the Uluru Statement from the Heart and then support and promote its message of **Voice, Treaty, and Truth-Telling**.

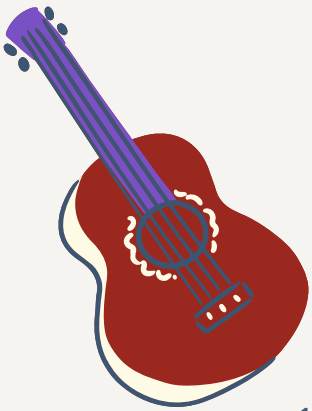
(1) Choose an area(s) of the arts e.g., literature, music, dance, art, drama, singing, poetry, film, visual arts, photography, media.

(2) Prepare a 3- 5-minute creative presentation /performance/ production, using any medium(s) you choose e.g., story, song , a rap, dance, flash mob, poem, slam poetry, monologue, visual arts, craft, short film, drama piece, music, media, digital arts.

(3) Write about your idea, process and what your creative piece is saying to all Australian people about the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

(4) As a class share and discuss these ideas.

(5) As a class activity, share all your creative processes and present your completed presentations/performances/productions at an assembly.



After your reflection and creative response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart - what is your message to all Australians?

WRITING, ART OR CRAFT ACTIVITY (Individual Activity)

(1) Present the **YouTube clip from the Makarrata Project**.

(2) Present the words and image of the Uluru Statement from the Heart on the board or wall as your focus. Give each student an individual copy to read and refer to.

(3) Give everyone in the class some pieces of A4 paper and different coloured marker pens.

(4) Invite each member of the class to read the Uluru Statement from the Heart to themselves.

(5) Invite each member of the class or group, to write their response (their thoughts, ideas, key words etc.) to the Uluru Statement from the Heart on the paper using the marker pens.

(6) As a class or group discuss their responses/ideas.

(7) After the students talk about what they have written, they stick (Blu Tack) their responses/ideas on to the board or wall.

(8) The teacher or a student will then write down all of the responses/ideas. Send (give) a copy of these to all the students later, so they can refer to it or use it as inspiration.

(9) Students then write, create, or craft their individual response to the **Uluru Statement from the Heart** using the format and medium of their choice e.g;

- A story, picture book, letter, diary, collage, storyboard, audio book, comic, journal, script, poem, article, memoir, song, rap, slam poetry, monologue, short movie, news report, illustrations that tell a story with no words or documentary.

OR

- Textiles, a wall hanging, drawing, puppet play, poster, paper sculpture/origami, painting, diorama, photography, plasticine or playdough, collage, necklace/jewellery using coloured beads, Lego, non-firing clay, cooking, mosaic, art.

- As an individual/group/ class, share your creative process and present your completed individual works.

- As a class activity, share all your creative processes and present the completed works at an assembly.

- Create a title for your completed works and set up an Uluru Statement from the Heart Exhibition in the library or school hall.

After your reflection and creative response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, what is your message to all Australians?





FINDING OUR HEART BOOK ACTIVITY

Thomas Mayor has written two books on the development and understanding of the Uluru Statement from the Heart:

- ***Finding the Heart of the Nation: The Journey of the Uluru Statement towards Voice, Treaty, Truth*** - an engaging easy read for senior student/adult level.
- ***Finding Our Heart: A Story about the Uluru Statement for Young Australians*** - a picture book with Illustrations by Blak Douglas for primary school level (can be used with the older students as well).

Watch the YouTube clip of Thomas Mayor reading ***Finding Our Heart - A story about the Uluru Statement for young Australians***.



(1) What will you remember about this story?

(2) How did you feel whilst reading/listening to this story?

(3) What have you learnt from reading/listening to this story?

(4) What information was new to you?

(5) Was there anything about the story that shocked or surprised you?

(6) How would you describe this story?

(7) Why is it important for Australians to read this story?

(8) What questions would you ask Thomas Mayor or Blak Douglas or any of the people involved in writing the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

(9) Write about your response to this book.

DRAMA ACTIVITY (Group or Class Activity)

Creatively present the Uluru Statement from the Heart using the ***Finding Our Heart*** picture book as a dramatic reading/performance.



SINGING/DANCING/MUSIC ACTIVITY (Group Activity)

Listen to some of these songs that showcase different musical styles:

- ***Come on Down***, Midnight Oil featuring Troy Cassar-Daley.
- ***You're the Voice***, John Farnham performing with Olivia Newton-John, Mitch Tambo, Brian May and more.
- Mitch Tambo performs John Farnham's ***You're the Voice*** in **Gamilaraay language**.
- ***In This Together***, Nancy Bates (Barkindji musician) and Ryan Martin John (Adelaide musician).
- ***For Everyone***, Yirrmal (Yolngu musician) and Jordie Lane (Melbourne musician).
- ***Treaty***, Yothu Yindi.
- ***Freedom***, Pat May featuring Archie Roach.
- ***Back On Country***, Troy Cassar-Daley.



Create your own song and/or dance sequence promoting the key themes in the Uluru Statement from the Heart emphasising that: The Uluru Statement is an invitation from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: "We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future".

- As a class, brainstorm words that could be used when writing your own lyrics e.g., story, invitation, time, country, Voice, Treaty, Truth.
- Create a song with your own original lyrics, a piece of instrumental music, a rap, or a dance around the theme Uluru Statement from the Heart.
- Create a dance sequence to accompany your song. Teach the members of your group/class the lyrics and steps.

SPEECH ACTIVITY (Individual or Paired Activity)

Prepare a speech or short talk about the importance of supporting and promoting the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

INTERVIEW ACTIVITY (Individual or Paired Activity)

What questions would you like to ask if you were going to interview the people who wrote the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

- Create a series of questions for this interview e.g., what was the inspiration for the creation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart?



FLASH MOB DANCE ACTIVITY (Group or Class Activity)

A flash mob is a group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place, perform for a brief time, then quickly disperse, often for the purposes of entertainment and artistic expression.

The goal of this activity is that the students will be talking about, teaching, dancing, and inspiring one another, their school communities, other schools and indeed all of us by raising awareness about the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This is what inspired the music and messages on ***the Makarrata Project*** **by Midnight Oil** featuring other musicians and musical artists.

Create a flash mob dance featuring the song *Come on Down* – Midnight Oil featuring Troy Cassar Daley OR your own choice of song.

- Talk about the idea with others and come up with steps to express it creatively in a flash mob dance presentation/performance/production/piece that showcases what this process means to you as a group/class group/ year group or whole school. This could be a lunchtime activity developed by a small group, class group or whole school.

- Begin and end the dance with a linking gesture e.g., hand on shoulder of the person next to you or whatever the group decides.

- It is an invitation to dance and have some fun.





POETRY ACTIVITY (Individual Activity)

As a class group, brainstorm the themes and ideas presented in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

- Write your own poem about the importance of the Uluru Statement from the Heart OR a theme that has sparked your interest during this study e.g., how the Uluru Statement was written or the importance of the word **'invitation'**.

- Choose a word that appeals to you from the Uluru Statement from the Heart and create a word cloud/mind map.

- Arrange to hold a Poetry Slam in your school. Your topic is the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

- Compose and deliver a poem, story, monologue, or rap (2-3-minutes). Your topic is the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

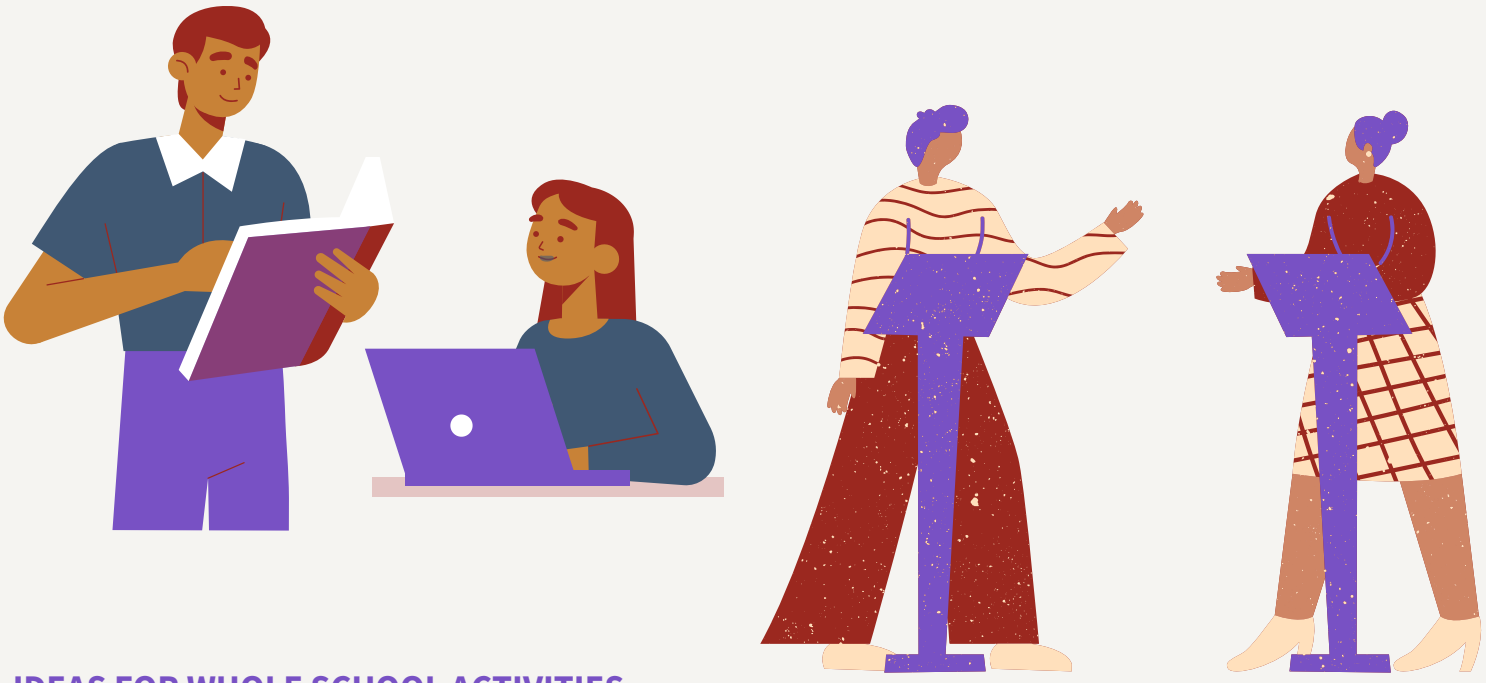
MESSAGES OF HOPE ACTIVITY (Individual or Group Activity)

HOPE is at the core of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. HOPE opens doors and drives us closer to achieving our goals of Voice, Treaty and Truth-Telling.

- Create a 2-3- minute message of hope about the Uluru Statement from the Heart and film it. Be sure to use an uplifting background to support your message.

These questions may assist with creating your message:

- What does HOPE mean to you?
- How do you promote/ nurture/sustain hope in your schoolwork and in your life?
- Why is it important to promote hope at this time, especially with the Uluru Statement from the Heart?



IDEAS FOR WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Showcase the presentations, performances, productions and ideas generated by these activities with an Uluru Statement from the Heart Creative Arts Festival.

- Hold an art/craft exhibition in your school presenting the visual work students have created through inspiration from the Uluru Statement from the Heart.



- Set up an Uluru Statement from the Heart area of focus in the library.

Display:

a) The Uluru Statement from the Heart posters/visuals.

b) The book *Finding Our Heart: A Story about the Uluru Statement for Young Australians* by Thomas Mayor with illustrations by Blak Douglas.

c) Students' completed works from the Creative Arts Activities.

Further Actions

- *Discussions with First Nations people who understand and support the Uluru Statement from the Heart.*
- *Promote the Uluru Statement from the Heart on social media using content at* **www.fromtheheart.com.au/resources/toolkit** *e.g., "We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and call on Australians to support a Voice to Parliament enabled by the Constitution."*
- **Sign the Uluru Statement Canvas - From The Heart**
- *Send a letter to your Federal MP in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.*

Questions

- Is there anything about the Uluru Statement from the Heart that you would like to investigate further?
- How would you like to respond either as a group or individual?
- How can you raise awareness and promote the Uluru Statement from the Heart with your family and friends as well as in your school, workplace, and community?
- Can you think of some creative ways to promote the Uluru Statement from the Heart using the arts?







Resources

Video clips

- **Uluru Statement from the Heart read by Pat Anderson, Troy Cassar Daley, Stan Grant, Adam Goodes, Ursulu Yovich (Midnight Oil)**
- Picture book read for young children: **Finding Our Heart - A Story about the Uluru Statement for young Australians**
- General - **Calls for renewed focus on Uluru Statement of the Heart four years on - 7.30** (ABC)
- Sharing Story /Truth Telling - **Ellen Fanning shares her family history: How one family started to reckon with their part in Australia's dark past** (ABC News)
- Return to Uluru author speaks about his book involved with 1937 shooting of traditional man at Uluru: **The cold case secret in a Brisbane garage - Conversations** (ABC Radio)

Websites

- Uluru Statement: **What does the Uluru Statement mean? - From The Heart**
- Voice to Parliament: **News | Indigenous Voice (niaa.gov.au)**

Books

- Cronin, D 2021, ***Trapped by History: The Indigenous-State Relationship in Australia***, Rowman & Littlefield, London/New York.
- Davis, M amp; Williams, G 2021, ***Everything You Need to Know About the Uluru Statement from the Heart***, University of New South Wales Press Ltd, Sydney.
- Gorrie, V 2021, ***Black and Blue***, Scribe Publications, Brunswick.
- Mayor, T 2020, ***Finding Our Heart: A Story about the Uluru Statement for Young Australians***, Hardie Grant Explore, Richmond.
- McKenna, M 2021, ***Return to Uluru***, Black Inc., Carlton.
- Reynolds, H 2021, ***Truth-Telling***, NewSouth Publishing, Sydney.

Songs

- ***Uluru Statement from the Heart/Come on Down***, Midnight Oil featuring Troy Cassar-Daley.
- ***You're the Voice***, John Farnham performing with Olivia Newton-John, Mitch Tambo, Brian May and more.
- Mitch Tambo performs John Farnham's ***You're the Voice*** in **Gamilaraay language**.
- ***In This Together***, Nancy Bates (Barkindji musician) and Ryan Martin John (Adelaide musician).
- ***For Everyone***, Yirrmal (Yolngu musician) and Jordie Lane (Melbourne musician).
- ***Treaty***, Yothu Yindi.
- ***Freedom***, Pat May featuring Archie Roach.
- ***Back On Country***, Troy Cassar-Daley.

Additional Visual Materials

- **Fromtheheart.com.au Campaign Toolkit**, including posters, social media tiles, factsheets and webinars.
- Uluru Statement from the Heart **Frequently Asked Questions**.
- **Ulurustatement.org Webinars**, including Youth Perspectives and Expert Analysis.

Further Reading or Discussion

- **Uluru Beginners Booklet**
- **Interim Report on the Proposed Models for the Voice to Parliament**

Edmund Rice Centre
Awareness. Advocacy. Action



Edmund Rice Centre

Awareness. Advocacy. Action

Address: 2 Thames Street, Balmain NSW 2041
PO Box 154, Balmain NSW 2041
Phone: (02) 9556 7000
Email: erc@edmundrice.org
Web: www.erc.org.au

