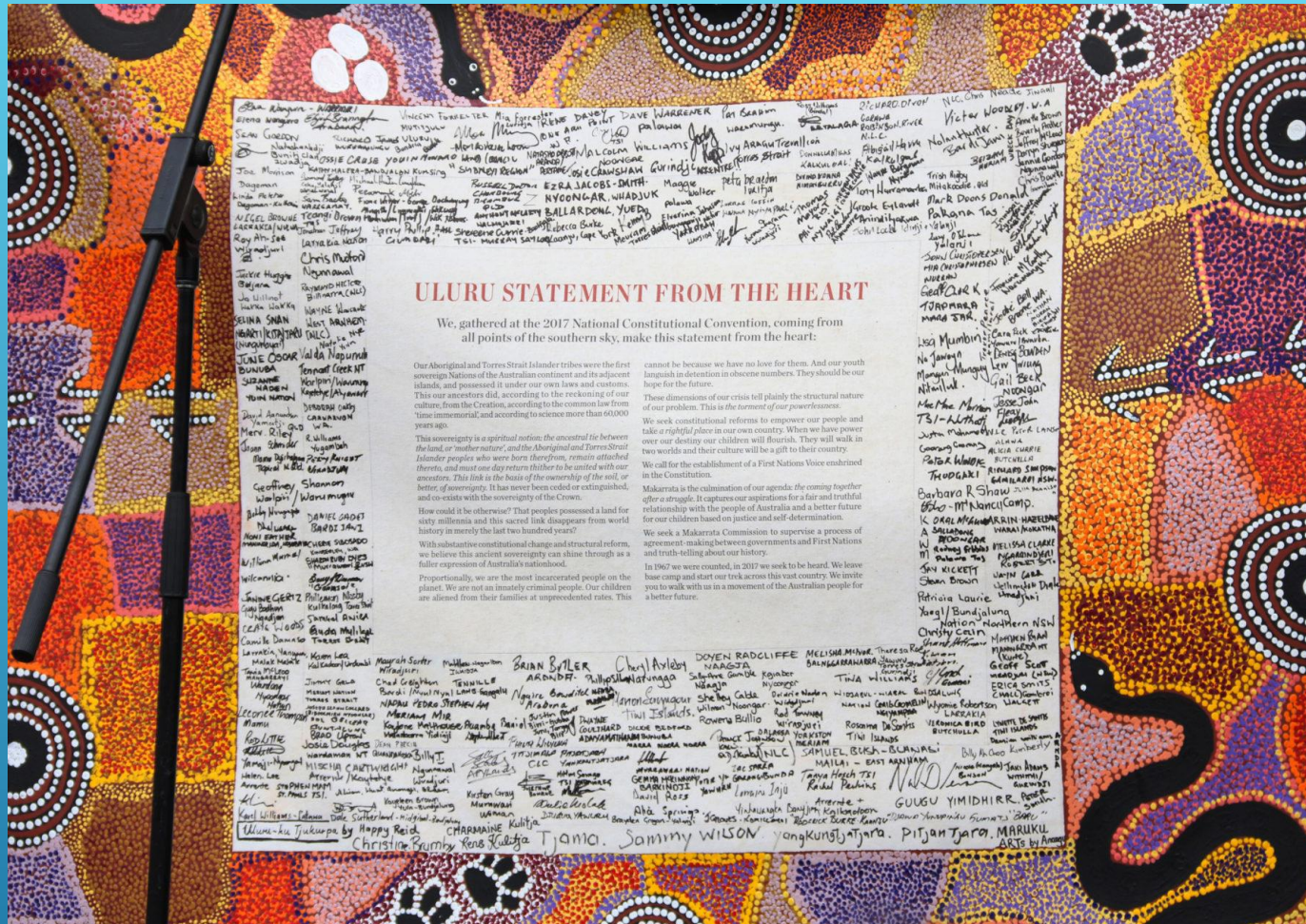


THE VOICE REFERENDUM

Why I'm Voting "NO"



WHAT IS THE INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT REFERENDUM?



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, remains 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.

Proportionately, 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 have been camping 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.

THE ULURU STATEMENT OF THE HEART

<https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/view-the-statement/>

Constitutional Recognition?



Makaratta? Treaty?



WHAT IS MAKARATA?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-10/makarrata-explainer-yolngu-word-more-than-synonym-for-treaty/8790452>

There shall be a body, to be called the
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Voice may make representations to the
Parliament and the Executive Government
of the Commonwealth on matters relating
to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
peoples;

The Parliament shall, subject to this
Constitution, have power to make laws
with respect to matters relating to the
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice,
including its composition, functions powers
and procedures.

THE INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

Proposed Wording of the
Referendum



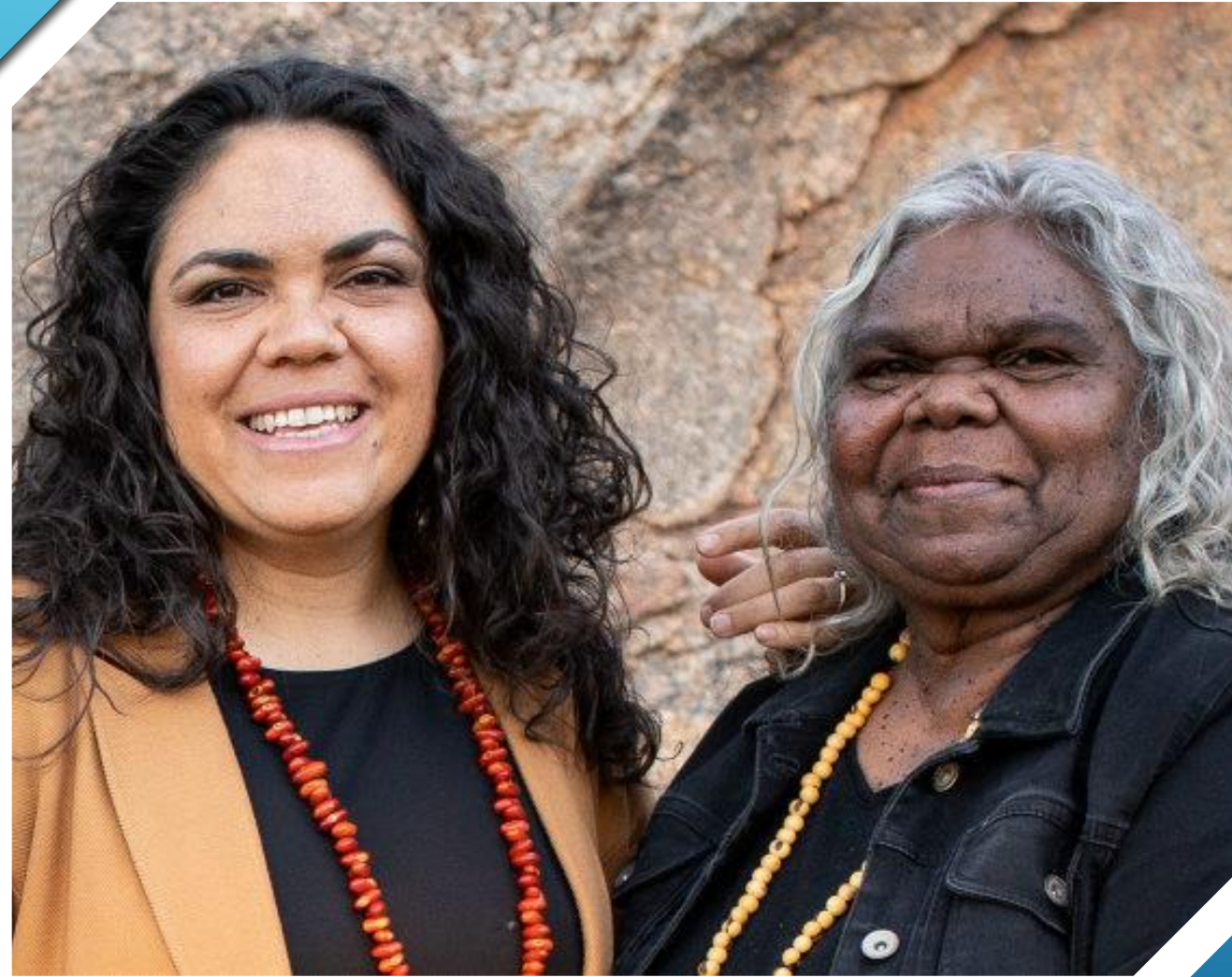
Sen. Jacinta Price
(Liberal)



Sen. Lidia Thorpe
(Ind. Ex Green)



WHY ARE PEOPLE VOTING NO?



“WHAT WE
NEED IN
CANBERRA IS
EARS. NOT A
VOICE”

Sen. Jacinta
Nampijinpa Price

[https://assets.nationbuilder.com/advanceaustraliaorgau/pages/2444/attachments/original/1680148518/One Together Not Two Divided.pdf?1680148518](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/advanceaustraliaorgau/pages/2444/attachments/original/1680148518/One_Together_Not_Two_Divided.pdf?1680148518)

“AN “EASY WAY TO
FAKE PROGRESS” FOR
FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE
WITHOUT MAKING
ANY CHANGES.”

Sen. Lidia Thorpe

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/aug/16/lidia-thorpe-calls-for-referendum-called-off-indigenous-voice-to-parliament-no-campaign>





THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

What is the most important question we need to ask ourselves?

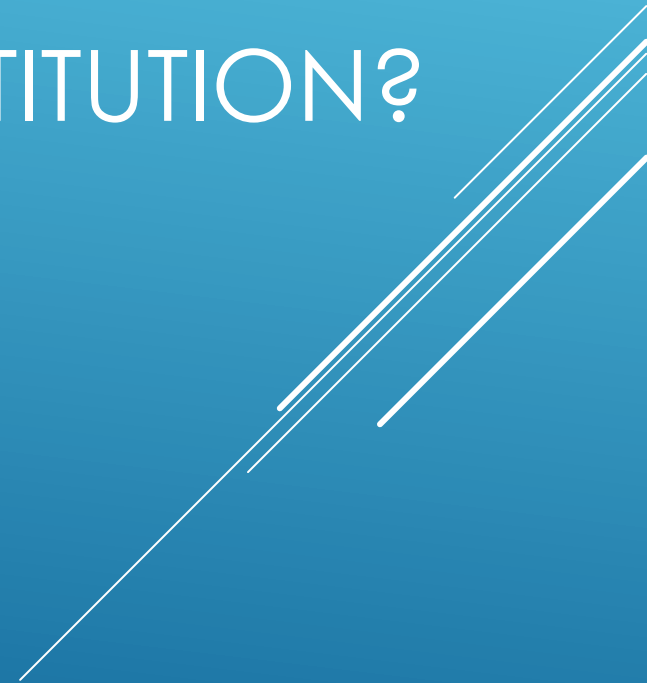
“ HOW WILL THE VOICE TO
PARLIAMENT IMPROVE THE LIVES
OF THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE? ”

The key question and the reason why I will be voting “NO”.

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE IT WILL. IN FACT, HISTORY HAS
SHOWN IT WILL FAIL.



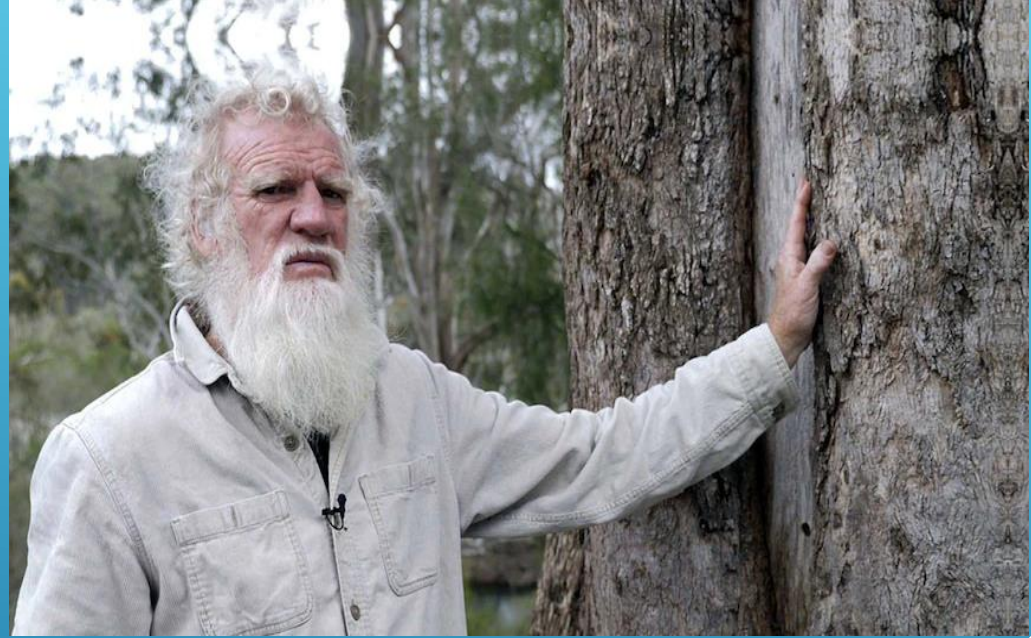
WHY CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION?



Ordinary Australians



Indigenous Australians



CREATING TWO "CLASSES" OF CITIZENS

THE PARLIAMENT SHALL, SUBJECT TO THIS CONSTITUTION, HAVE POWER TO MAKE LAWS FOR THE PEACE, ORDER, AND GOOD GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH WITH RESPECT TO:--

(XXVI.) THE PEOPLE OF ANY RACE FOR WHOM IT IS DEEMED NECESSARY TO MAKE SPECIAL LAWS: INSTEAD OF THIS, WE SHOULD BE CAMPAIGNING TO ABOLISH THIS RACE LAW PROVISION IN THE CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution – Sec 51 XXVI –
Race-based Powers

http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/coaca430/s51.html

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

2011 Census

- 548,368 people
- 2.5% of total population



2016 Census

- 649,171 people
- 2.8% of total population



2021 Census

- 812,728 people
- 3.2% of total population

The 2021 Census reported a

25% increase

in the Indigenous population in the

five years since

the previous census.

Canberra Politicians' Voice



Regional Community Voice



“IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET A MAN TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, WHEN HIS SALARY DEPENDS ON HIS NOT UNDERSTANDING IT.” - UPTON SINCLAIR

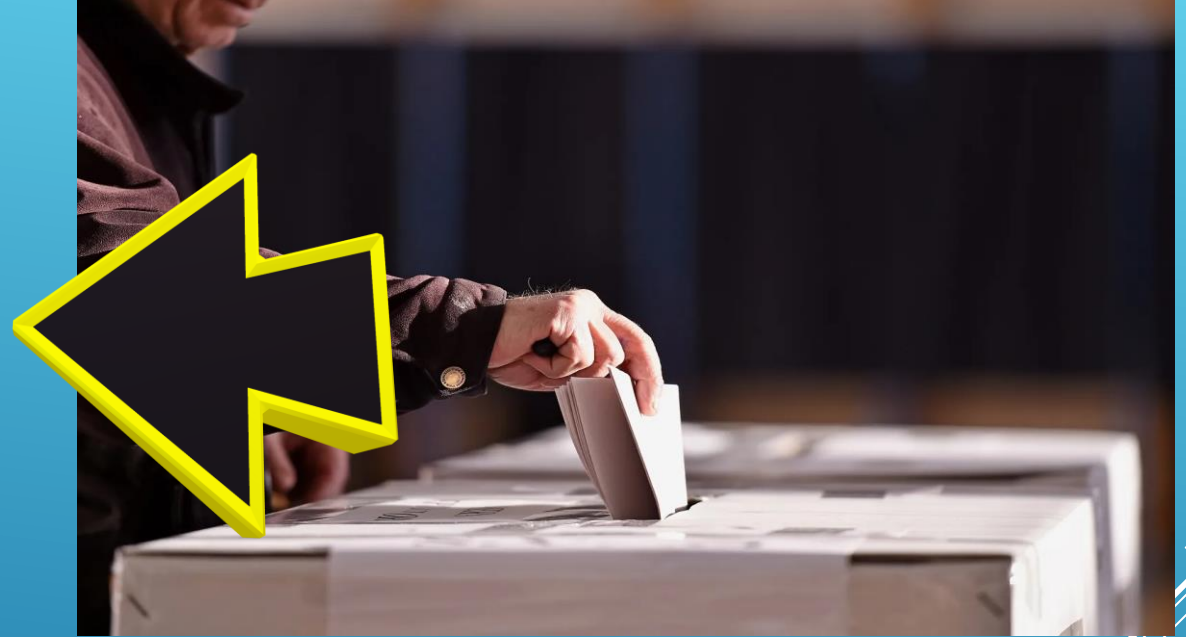


WE SUPPORT A VOICE
WE SUPPORT A

Unelected Judges



Elected Representatives



WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A DISPUTE?

A woman with long, wavy blonde hair is shown in profile, looking down and to the left. She is wearing a light-colored, sleeveless top. The background is a dark, textured grey. On the right side of the image, several hands are visible, each pointing its index finger towards the woman. The hands are wearing different colored sleeves: dark blue, light blue, and white. The overall mood is one of being pointed at or judged.

Consider this....

IF YOU VOTE "NO", YOU WILL
BE CALLED A "RACIST".
BUT IF YOU VOTE "YES", YOU
WILL BE ONE.

Do what FEELS good



VS

Do ACTUAL good



ASK YOURSELF – DO YOU WANT TO...



Commonwealth of Australia

BALLOT PAPER

State/territory

Referendum on proposed Constitution alteration

DIRECTIONS TO VOTER

Write "YES" or "NO" in the
space provided opposite
the question set out below.

A PROPOSED LAW:

There would be a description
of the proposed constitutional
change here.

DO YOU APPROVE
THIS PROPOSED
ALTERATION?

YES

WRITE
"YES" OR "NO"



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

SAMPLE

HOW TO VOTE?

- ▶ Write "YES" or "NO" in the box
- ▶ A tick (☑) is counted as a vote for "Yes"
- ▶ But a cross (☒) is counted as informal



FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.fairaustralia.com.au/>