



June 8, 2018

Federal Parliament
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sirs/Madames,

RE: Voice in Parliament of First Nation Peoples

I write on behalf of The Balmain Tigers Australian Rules Football Club and Western Magic Australian Rules Football Club pledging the full and unequivocal support of our Board of Directors, coaching staff, players, members and community partners, numbering over 3000 people, for a referendum that will result in a Voice to Parliament of First Nation Peoples.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart must be at the forefront of any government action as it appropriately outlines the historic and present injustices contributing to a raft of issues felt across First Nation Communities and Peoples. Specifically, we demand this referendum be attended to post haste as a First Nations Voice to Parliament is an absolute priority.

Once real and substantive constitutional recognition is achieved, First Nations People will be afforded the freedom, denied them since 1788, to advise on affairs with appropriate deference to cultural sensitivities.

It is once this Voice to Parliament is enshrined that Makarrata can be established. Agreement making between equal parties is the only way to ensure respectful dialogue.

We strongly support the opportunity presented to the Parliament of Australia to right the significant historic wrongs suffered by the original custodians of this land.

We contend that our best chance of a hopeful and bright future as a nation is dependant upon a truthful acceptance of the real history of colonisation. The Uluru Statement from the Heart promotes this truth and spurns symbolism such as a preamble to the existing constitution.

The manner in which section 51(xxvi) 'the race power' was contrived is inherently racist. The Uluru Statement from the Heart champions a referendum in order to ensure the constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament is heard on matters such as this and removes the likelihood of governments imposing the negative consequences of such an act.

The onus is firmly upon the Joint Select Committee to promote a straightforward referendum, engage in dialogue, educate society and watch as the people of this country find our best selves and embrace our true 70,000 year history.

The generosity of the original and time honoured custodians of the land must not be overlooked. The ultimate gift from this country's First Nations People is to be given the opportunity to walk alongside them as we mould a society all people of this land can be proud of.

Humanity depends upon the strength of your souls to accept this gift and reciprocate with the referendum that is needed due to the ignorance of society 230 years ago.

Now is the time to act on the Uluru Statement from the Heart: Voice, Treaty and Truth. We strongly urge the Committee to recommend a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution. Constitutional Recognition is the first step towards a Makarrata Commission to supervise treaty and truth-telling. Join with us as we make our past truthful and our future hopeful.

Best regards,



John Little
President
Balmain Australian Football Club