



Uluru Statement from the Heart **Easy Read Guide**



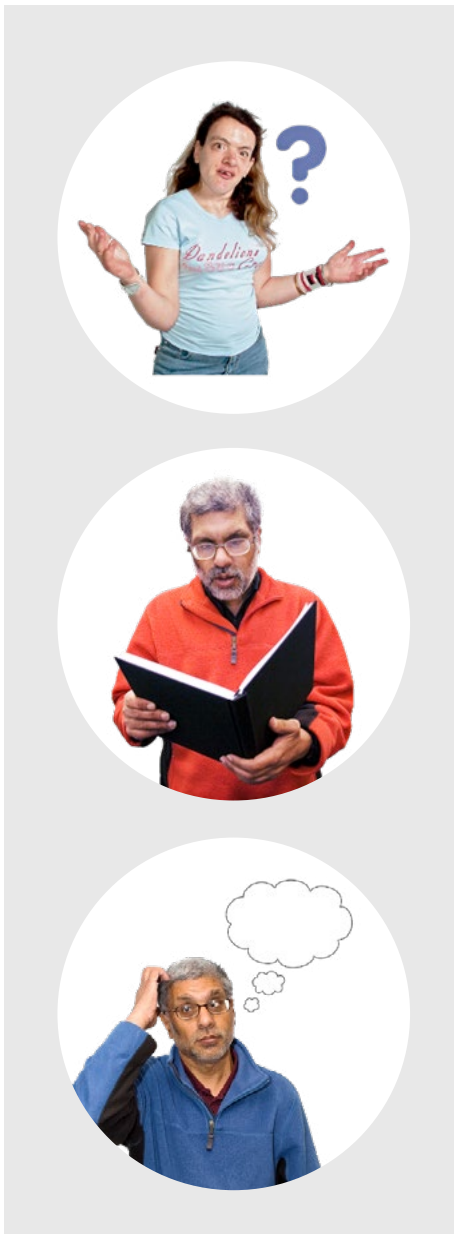
First Nations people should be aware that this document may have images of people who have died.

Uluru Statement from the Heart



This information is about the **Uluru Statement from the Heart**.

We will say the **Uluru Statement** for short.



It tells you

- What the Uluru Statement is
- What the Uluru Statement says
- Why the Uluru Statement is important.



First People's Disability Network wrote this information.

We are the national organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities.



When you see **we** and **our** in this information it means **First Nations people**.



First Nations people means Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Other organisations helped us with the Easy Read like

- Inclusion Australia
- Council for Intellectual Disability
- VALID.

The Voice to Parliament



There will be a **referendum** in Australia in 2023.



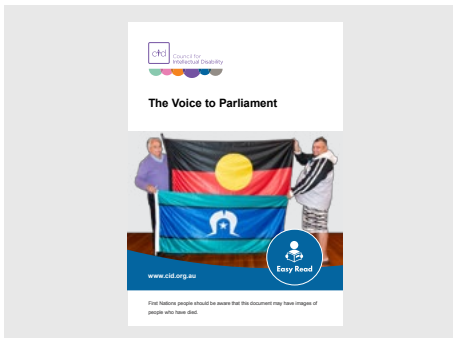
A **referendum** is a big vote about changing the **Constitution**.



The **Constitution** is the main rulebook that tells everyone in Australia how our country should work.



The referendum is about if we should have a **Voice to Parliament** for First Nations people.



You can find more about the Voice to Parliament in this Easy Read here

www.cid.org.au/voice-parliament

What is the Uluru Statement



The **Uluru Statement** is important to understand the Referendum.



Uluru is an important place for First Nations people.



Many First Nations people from around Australia met at Uluru in 2017.



We worked together on a plan to make sure our people

- Have a voice
- Can make decisions about our lives and our communities.



We wrote a speech about

- Some of the big problems for our people
- What needs to change.



This speech is called the **Uluru Statement from the Heart**.

What the Uluru Statement says



The **Uluru Statement** talks about the history of our people.



It says that we were the first people in Australia.



Our people have lived in Australia for over 60 thousand years.



We have had our own rules and laws and culture for many years.



We have a **spiritual connection** with the land and nature of Australia.



Spiritual connection means that people believe in something like religion.



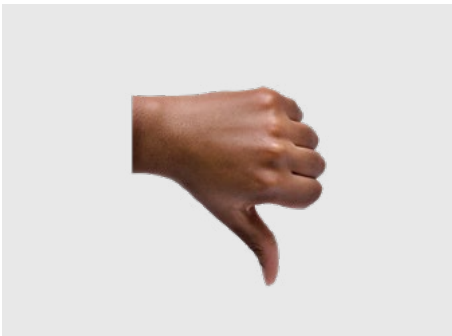
The spiritual connection to the land is very important to all First Nations people.



People from many other countries have come to live in Australia.



They brought new laws and rules when they came.



We did not agree to give our land to people from other countries.



We will always have a deep connection to the land and nature.



We need to find a way for First Nations rules to work with the new laws and rules.



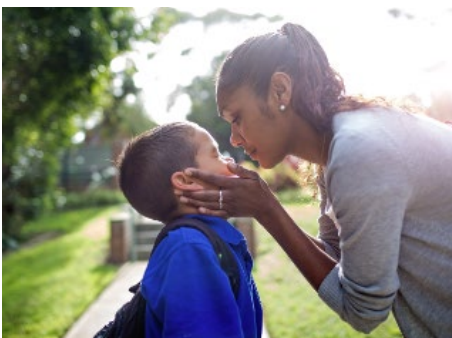
Too many First Nations people are in prison because of unfair rules.



Too many young First Nations people are in detention centres like jails.



That means that many of our families are not together.



This is sad because we love our children.



Our young people are important for our future and the future of Australia.



First Nations people do not have power to make change to make things better.



This is very hard and hurts our people.



Our people want to change the Australian Constitution.



This will mean that

- Our people have more power in our own country



- Our children have a better future



- Our culture will be an important part of this country.



It will also mean that our children will be able to live in **2 worlds**.



2 worlds means the old and new Australia.

What First Nations people want



We want a **Voice to Parliament** in the Australian Constitution.



We want to be heard.



We will call it **Makarrata**.

Makarrata is an Aboriginal word that means working together after a struggle.



A Voice to Parliament will mean

- A fairer relationship with the people of Australia



- A better future for our children

- Better decisions between our people and the Government



- Being able to talk about our history.



We want all Australians to work together so we all have a better future.

Original Text of the Uluru Statement of the Heart



This is the original text of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

This text is not Easy Read.

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.



Contact FPDN



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Inclusion Australia, CID and FPDN made this document Easy Read.

You need to ask if you want to use any pictures in this document.

You can contact CID at reconciliation@cid.org.au.

We show our respect to all First Nations people.

We can learn many things all together.