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 on this continent and its adjacent islands, and possess sovereignty under us and our laws and customs.

This sovereignty is inalienable and unqualified, the sovereign being the community, the people, whose interest is paramount, and whose rights and interests must be protected. This sovereignty is inherent in 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 that underlies the ancient laws of the land. They are the laws of the people, and their application is not in the form of a court or a prison. They are the laws of the community, and their application is through the law of the people. They are the laws of the country, and their application is through the law of the land.

We have never been conquered, and we have never been submitted. We have never been subjected to any other law. We have never been subjected to any other authority. We have never been subjected to any other government. We have never been subjected to any other control. We have never been subjected to any other influence.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our country. We seek to have our voice over our destiny, our children will flourish. They will walk in our ways and their culture will be gifted to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda. We come together after a struggle. It captures our aspiration for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a justice future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commissioner to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and knowledge about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We have lived and learnt our way across this country. We invite you to work with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.