

**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 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.

*Uluru-ku Tjukurpa by Happy Reid*  
*Christina Brumby* *Rene Kulitja* *Tjama* *Sammy Wilson* *yangkungtjajara* *Pitjan Tjara* *ARTs by Anangy*

- Brea Ngunun - WARRMI  
 Elena Nungarra  
 SEAN GORDON  
 Joe Morrison  
 Dagoman  
 Linda Fletcher  
 Dagoman-Kulkou  
 NIGEL BROWNE  
 LARRAKIA/NUWA  
 Roy Ah-see  
 Willyadju  
 Jackie Huggie  
 Beljara  
 Jo Willmet  
 Kalka Warkka  
 SELINA SNAN  
 NGARTI/KITAJUK  
 (Nungurru)  
 JUNE OSCAR  
 BUNUBA  
 SUZANNE  
 NADEN  
 YUIN NATION  
 David Anderson  
 Yamaji, QLD  
 Merv. Riley  
 Joann Schmeider  
 Geoffery Shannon  
 Warlpiri/Warrungu  
 Ricky Nungurru  
 Dheeraj  
 NONI EATHEK  
 MARRIARRI  
 William Murray  
 Wilcanilla  
 JANINE GERTZ  
 Guyo Boodim  
 Guyo Nadjon  
 CRAIG WOODS  
 Camille Damaso  
 Larvatin, Nanyim,  
 Malak Malak  
 Tania McLeod  
 MARRIARRI  
 Wadjan  
 Mycongar  
 Nathan  
 Leonnee Thompson  
 Mamu  
 Red LITTLE  
 Helen Lee  
 Arrernte  
 STEPHEN MAM  
 ST. PMSLS TSI.  
 Kiri  
 Karel Williams - Palawa  
 Vincent Forrester  
 Mia Forrester  
 Lurija  
 RENE DAVEY  
 DAVE WARRENER  
 Pat Barim  
 WARRUNGU  
 MALCOLM WILLIAMS  
 Ivy ARAGUTREVALLO  
 JESSIE STRAIT  
 JOSIE CRAWSHAW  
 Gurindji  
 KESKENTHE  
 Maggie Walter  
 petu braedon  
 lukitja  
 Ezerina Jahara  
 YAKA  
 WARRI  
 RUSSELL DOONAN  
 EZRA JACOBS-SMITH  
 NYOONGAR, WHADJUK  
 BALLARDONG, YUEDJ  
 ANTHONY  
 WARRI  
 TSI - MURKAY  
 SAMLOO  
 Cape York  
 MEURAM  
 TARRAS  
 SOFIA WILLIAMS  
 RICHARD DVOH  
 GAWWA  
 ROBINSON RIVER  
 N.L.C.  
 FIBGAIL HAWK  
 Kalkulgal  
 WARRI  
 NOLAN HUNTER  
 BARAL JAWI  
 BEIZAM  
 MARIAM  
 Trish Rigby  
 Mitakoodie, qld  
 Mark Doons Donald  
 Palkana Tas  
 Yalari  
 Yalari  
 JOHN CHRISTOPHERSEN  
 MIA CHRISTOPHERSEN  
 NUBERAN  
 GED CAR K  
 TJAPMARA  
 MARRIARRI  
 Lisa Mumbin  
 Na Jawon  
 Mangan Munguy  
 NITMILUK  
 Mac Mc Morrison  
 TSI - WATHATI  
 Justin Mohammed  
 Goorung  
 Peter WINDK  
 THUDGAKI  
 Barbara R Shaw  
 Bolo - M'Nancy Camp  
 K ORAL MARRIARRI  
 A SALLADON  
 W BODDING  
 M Palawa Tas  
 JAY KICKETT  
 Steven Brown  
 Patricia Laurie  
 Yaagi/Bundjalung  
 Nation Northern NSW  
 Christy Cain  
 SHANT HARRISON  
 MELISHA McIVOR  
 Theresa Ross  
 BALNGARRAWARRA  
 Yawuru  
 Tina Williams  
 Goooi  
 WIDJABUL  
 WARRI  
 BUNDJALUNG  
 NATION  
 GORONG  
 WYOMIE ROBERTSON  
 LAERAKIA  
 ROSANNA De Santos  
 VERONICA BIRD  
 BUTCHULLA  
 TINI ISLANDS  
 SAMUEL BUSH - BUNJARI  
 MAILAI - EAST ARNHAM  
 Tanya Hesch TSI  
 Raikul Paulins  
 NALDIAN  
 BILLY AH CHOO  
 Kimberley  
 JAKI ADAMS  
 WITHMI  
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 PATET  
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