



historycouncilnsw



20 October 2018

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

Uluru Statement

We write on behalf of the History Councils of NSW, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia, which are the peak bodies for historical organisations and their members in their respective states.

We whole heartedly agree with our colleagues in the Australian Historical Association who wrote to the Prime Minister on this subject earlier this year. Collectively, we urge your government to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the recommendations of the Referendum Council for an Indigenous voice to the Australian Parliament.

The Uluru Statement, which is the result of a decade of consultation initiated by the federal government, should be respected and acted upon. We believe the results of this long process offers a rare opportunity for a First Nations Voice to be included in the Constitution by the Australian people. There has been a long history of Indigenous advocacy in this country – more than two hundred years of patient petitioning to colonial, state and federal politicians and their institutions by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is time that their voice be recognised.

The proposed reform, providing Indigenous peoples with a voice to parliament, is modest and respects the sovereignty of the Australian Parliament. Moreover, it presents your government with the opportunity of taking a significant constitutional step forward.

The Uluru Statement also calls for 'truth-telling about our history'. We welcome this. Knowledge and understanding of history is absolutely crucial to our nation's future.

Yours sincerely,

Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM FRHS On behalf of the History Councils of Australia

Cc Leader of the
Opposition Minister
for Aboriginal Affairs
Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

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