

Tuesday 19 January 2021

The Healing Foundation strongly supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart

As the Federal Government calls for feedback on the second stage of the Indigenous Voice co-design process, The Healing Foundation reiterates its strong support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Healing Foundation CEO Fiona Petersen said that Stolen Generation survivors and their descendants see all elements of the Uluru Statement – the Constitutional change, the Legislative change, and the Makarrata Commission – as crucial to the process of healing for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Constitutional change enshrines a First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution that would empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Legislative change establishes a Makarrata Commission, to oversee agreement-making with Australian governments. The Makarrata Commission would also oversee a process of truth telling about Australia's history and colonisation, and how today's traumas link directly to it.

Ms Petersen said it is time for genuine and significant reform to progress healing through the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

"A shared and equal future starts with healing and stopping the trauma," Ms Petersen said.

"Being honest about this is the start. Token gestures do not heal. Incremental change does not end trauma cycles or lead to intergenerational healing.

"Equity, fairness, and inclusiveness requires big, bold steps to finally address the discrepancies in health, justice, and welfare outcomes for First Nations peoples.

"We need all Australians, especially our leaders, to walk alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples building a stronger nation together."

The Healing Foundation has been working with Stolen Generations survivors to identify and promote truth telling at a grassroots level in communities around Australia.

Dates like 26 January re-traumatise survivors of policies that led to the forced removal of children from their families and communities. Many still share their stories to build a better understanding of Australia's full history.

"Stolen Generations survivors and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community know what they need to heal, and they have been telling governments for years," Ms Petersen said.

"The Uluru Statement from the Heart and a Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution would go a long way to healing our nation.

"The benefits of healing flow to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and, ultimately, to all Australians."



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Ms Petersen said that important First Nations-led movements like the Uluru Statement and Closing the Gap are essential parts of the healing process.

The Healing Foundation will submit formal feedback on the Indigenous Voice to the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM.

To raise awareness about intergenerational trauma and its impacts on today's families and communities, The Healing Foundation produced this animation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlqx8EYvRbQ&t>

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that partners with communities to heal trauma caused by the widespread and deliberate disruption of populations, cultures, and languages over 230 years. This includes specific actions like the forced removal of children from their families.

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