

29 April 2021

ANZUUA C/- Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church 110 Grey Street East Melbourne 3002
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**ANZUUA**

*THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION*

Submission in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and an Indigenous Voice to Parliament

ANZUUA represents Unitarian Universalist congregations across Australia and New Zealand and is part of a worldwide liberal religious movement. Unitarian Universalists beliefs include the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence. Our member congregations unanimously support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the call for constitutional recognition of an Indigenous representative Voice to Parliament.

Indigenous groups have come together and with great effort produced a roadmap that can lead us all to a healthier future. We believe it is essential that the Australian government accept the Uluru Statement from the Heart and use it as a basis to begin the necessary task of healing our country's wounds from the past. By embracing the whole truth of our nation's history, we can make progress to become an inclusive nation.

We ask that our First Nations peoples' work be respected and taken up with seriousness and urgency and implemented in a permanent manner that cannot be altered according to the whims of politicians. Constitutional recognition and a mechanism for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament is a necessity for all Australians.

Accordingly, together, we support the constitutional recognition of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament as one necessary step for Australia to start the healing process, incorporate long-neglected voices into the governing process and become a healthier nation.