

NOTE TO TEACHERS

This *Secondary Student Workbook* is intended as a source of information and reflection on the Uluru Statement From the Heart. For more resources on First Nations Australian Peoples, please visit our [website](#).

It is our hope that you will find all or some of this resource useful and use it in a way that best suits your purposes.

For more resources on a variety of topics, please visit [our Schools page](#).

We would love to hear from you!

Please email your feedback, enquiries or comments to us at education@caritas.org.au

Stay up to date with events and resources!

Teachers, subscribe to Caritas Australia's Education e-newsletter [here](#).

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This resource was updated in April 2026

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Secondary School
Workbook



Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia. Photo: Richard Wainwright/ Caritas Australia.

STUDENTS

Learning about challenges to the health, wellbeing and safety of others and our earth can be hard. If you are feeling worried or upset about anything you have learnt about through this resource, talk to your teacher or trusted adult.

They can share your concerns via our [website](#). You can also find out more about speaking up on our [page for young people](#).

Do you have an idea for how Caritas Australia can improve our school resources? We would love to hear it! Please email education@caritas.org.au

First Nations people are advised that this resource and external links may contain images, voices and names of people who have died.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART



The Statement

On May 26th 2017, over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders gathered together to establish a path towards incorporating First Nations voice in the Australian Constitution. This was written as a document titled [The Uluru Statement of the Heart](#).

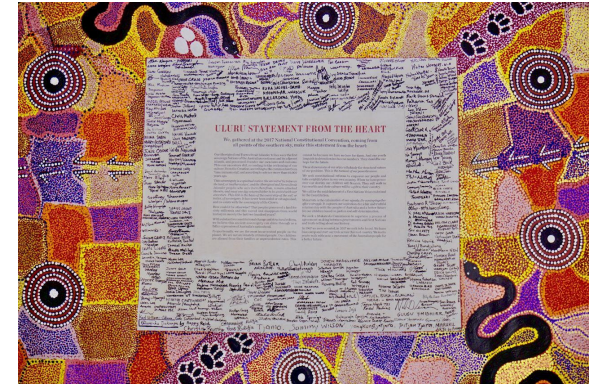
The Statement is an invitation from First Nations Peoples issued to all Australians. It calls for two things:

1. **A First Nations Voice**, written into the law of Australia so that First Nations communities always have a say in decisions, laws and programs that affect them.
2. **A Makarrata Commission**, to lead agreement making and truth-telling about First Nations history.

In 2023, the Australian people voted in a **referendum** to decide whether to change the Constitution to recognise First Nations Peoples by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The referendum did not pass.

The Artwork

The artwork surrounding the words was led by Maruku artist Rene Kulitja and painted by Multijulu artists. It depicts Uluru-Ku Tjukurrpa (The Uluru Story), a story passed down through generations about connection from all corners of the land.



The Uluru Statement From the Heart. Photo: ulurustatement.org

EXPLORE THE STATEMENT

[Go to the Statement website](#)
and scroll down the page to
explore it in more detail. Then,
learn about the dialogues that
took place [here](#).

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The Voice Referendum

In 2023, the Australian people voted in a **referendum** to decide whether to change the Constitution to recognise First Nations Peoples by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The referendum did not pass.

For many First Nations Peoples and communities, this outcome was deeply disappointing and highlighted the ongoing challenges of recognition, inclusion and justice in Australia.

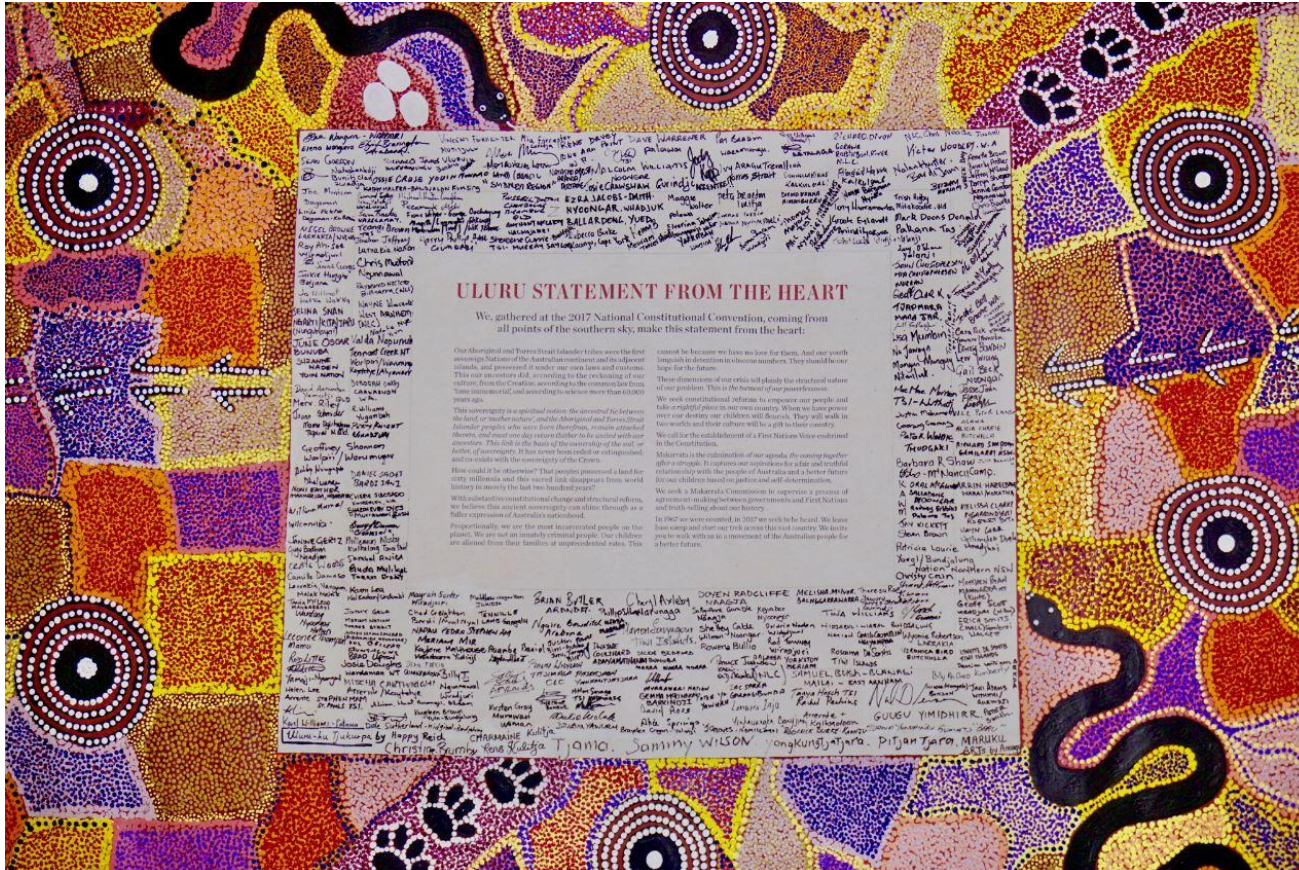


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ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART



UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY

Learn about First Nations history [here](#) then [watch this video](#) before answering the questions on the following pages.

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ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART



1. Who wrote the Uluru Statement From the Heart?
2. What does the Uluru Statement From the Heart call for?
3. What is a referendum?

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Voice | Treaty | Truth



4. Describe what happened in 1901, and a year later, that impacted the voices of Australian First Nations Peoples?
4. Explain the significant events that took place in the 1960s towards the recognition and rights of Australian First Nations Peoples?
5. Who were some of the main advocates fighting for a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the early 1900s?
5. How would a First Nations Voice to parliament help Australian First Nations Peoples better participate in decisions that affect their lives?
1. What were some methods available to Australian First Nations Peoples to share their voices?

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Voice | Treaty | Truth



9. Define the term 'treaty'.

1988 –

1992 –

10. Fill in the below timeline to outline the steps towards treaty and reconciliation with Australian First Nations Peoples.

1835 –

2000 –

1977 –

2023 –

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Voice | Treaty | Truth



11. Explain what is meant by the term 'truth-telling' for Australian First Nations Peoples.

12. Explain the progress or significant steps that have been made since the release of the Uluru Statement From the Heart? (This will require you to complete your own research.)

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Voice | Treaty | Truth



13. Discuss the ongoing impact that silence rather than truth-telling has on Australian First Nations people and communities. Write your thoughts as a letter to the Australian Prime Minister or the Minister for Indigenous Australians.

LEARN MORE



About the Country you are on

Learn about the First Nations Culture, Country, Language and history where you live. Which Country are you on? What is already happening locally to help address injustice experienced by First Nations Peoples? Visit the website of your local council, [Know Your Country](#) and [AIATSIS](#) to learn more.

About Closing the Gap

In 2008, Australians and the Australian Government made a commitment to 'close the gap' between First Nations Australians and non-First Nations Australians. Introducing 'Close the Gap', Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said, "This new partnership on closing the gap will set concrete targets for the future..." Explore the [Closing the Gap](#) targets and consider which [human rights](#) 'Closing the Gap' address.

About Caritas Australia's work

With your help, Caritas Australia continues to accompany First Australian communities as they strengthen their cultural identity, support intergenerational healing and keep Culture alive for future generations. We journey the way of justice together. Learn about [Caritas Australia's First Australian Programs](#).



www.indigenousvoice.church

LISTEN TO FIRST NATIONS VOICES

Visit the [One Journey, Together](#) website to hear First Nations leaders and community members share their opinions on the 2023 Indigenous Voice to Parliament Referendum.

TAKE ACTION



JOIN OTHER ADVOCATES

Explore campaigns that have First Nations rights at their heart, for example [Know Your Country](#) and [Raise the Age](#). Discuss the issues, then take action! (See each website for best ideas on how to do this effectively.)



CREATE A SIGN OF RESPECT

Research the First Nations Country your school is on and create a sign of acknowledgement that can be displayed in your school. Share the signs on your school's social media and use the words at the start of class and whole school gatherings. Visit [Know Your Country](#) to find out more.



WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL MP

Write a letter to your local federal Member of Parliament, calling for a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in law. [Find more information here.](#)



TALK ABOUT THE VOICE

Continue to have conversations with friends and family about the Uluru Statement From the Heart, especially the First Nations Voice and Makarrata Commission it calls for. Share the [One Journey, Together](#) website with your friends and family.



HOST A FUNDRAISER

Support the work of Caritas Australia's First Australian programs and partners by raising awareness and funds. You could host a Caritas Ks event, open a Caritas Kitchen or plan another event of your choosing. Visit the [Caritas Australia](#) fundraising page for ideas and resources to help you make an impact!

PRAY



God, you make us
and give life and breath to all.
Quieten us to hear First Nations voices
as they speak wisdom and truth.

God, you love us
and lead the way to justice.
Stir us to solidarity with First Nations Peoples
as they rally for their rights to be upheld.

God, you renew us
and long for creation's flourishing.
Reconcile us, one to another
so we can build a future with hope.

Amen.



Janice wears traditional white face markings as she prepares to perform her dance. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia