



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL MATERIAL (INC)

**Resolution in support of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and the Voice to Parliament**

**Adopted by the membership at AICCM's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, 4 October 2023**

In the spirit of reconciliation, equity and justice, and in alignment with its aims, the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) Inc. resolves to support the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and the Voice to Parliament.

The *Statement* was crafted by delegates of the First Nations National Constitutional Convention in 2017 and reworked by over 150 delegates since. It calls for constitutional reforms acknowledging the sovereignty and enduring cultures of First Nations peoples, through the establishment of a First Nations Voice to Parliament and a Makarrata Commission for Treaty and Truth-Telling. The *Statement* represents the largest consensus of First Nations peoples in Australian history and builds on decades of similar advocacy.

AICCM acknowledges that we live and work on the unceded land of First Nations peoples. The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and the Voice to Parliament seek to address historical injustices and promote reconciliation. We recognise the importance of First Nations peoples' self-determination in matters that shape the creation, use, transmission, and conservation of their cultural heritage. We also acknowledge that self-determination is a human right, as enshrined in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The Voice to Parliament will enable First Nations peoples to advise Parliament about laws and policies, so that decisions which impact First Nations peoples are made with them, not for them.

The *Statement* and the Voice to Parliament align with AICCM's strategic vision to 'support First Nations peoples seeking to protect and sustain their cultural heritage where conservation and preservation activity is outward-looking, participatory, and centered around people and community...respecting traditional modes of caring for cultural collections' (*AICCM Strategic Plan 2020-2025*).

The *Statement* and the Voice to Parliament align with AICCM's *Code of Practice* and *Code of Ethics*, which require members to recognise First Nations peoples as key stakeholders in the conservation of their cultural heritage, to include key stakeholders in decision making about their cultural heritage, and to adapt conservation practices to cultural requirements as needed.



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The AICCM recognises that within any diverse community opinions can vary widely. The Voice to Parliament has the support of approximately 80% of First Nations peoples, with others advocating for a different path to sovereignty. The majority of First Nations leaders, communities and organisations do endorse the Voice as a significant step towards empowerment, recognition and self-determination. By supporting the Voice, AICCM wishes to demonstrate our commitment to allyship and a future in which the conservation profession works with and supports First Nations peoples for the best cultural outcomes.

The *Uluru Statement* concludes with an invitation: ‘In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard... We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.’ In 2023, the AICCM invites every member to access verified official information about the *Uluru Statement* and the Voice to Parliament referendum and to make an informed choice that will benefit First Nations peoples and the future of Australia’s cultures and cultural heritage.

### **References:**

AICCM Strategic Plan 2020-2025

AICCM Code of Ethics and Code of Practice, 2002

**Key message:** AICCM is proud to support the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and the Voice to Parliament, advocating for constitutional recognition of First Nations peoples and the creation of a meaningful platform for their voices to shape policies that impact their communities. Our support reflects AICCM’s key mission to advance cultural heritage conservation, through participatory, respectful, accountable and adaptable practice.



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## Further reading

### The Referendum

- Australian Government information: <https://voice.gov.au/>
- The Australian Human Rights Commission: <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice/voice-referendum-understanding>
- <https://www.yes23.com.au/faq>
- Access tool kits in 46 languages, including Auslan and easy-to-read English prepared by Polaron and Life Without Barriers: <https://www.lwb.org.au/social-policy/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/social-justice/voice-to-parliament/translated-toolkits/>

### The Uluru Statement from the Heart

- The Uluru Statement 2017, Uluru Statement from the Heart: <https://Ulurustatement.org/the-statement/>
- Full report and background: [https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/report\\_attachments/Referendum\\_Council\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/report_attachments/Referendum_Council_Final_Report.pdf)
- Parliament of Australia quick guide: [https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/pubs/rp/rp1617/Quick\\_Guides/UluruStatement](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1617/Quick_Guides/UluruStatement)

### Reconciliation

- Reconciliation Australia 2020, Reconciliation: Moving beyond Acknowledgement of Country <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation-moving-beyond-acknowledgement-of-country/>
- United Nations Declaration On The Rights Of Indigenous Peoples <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>



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## First Peoples

- William Cooper 1937 Petition: Sir William Cooper's letter to the King calling for more federal First Nations voices at the decision-making table  
[https://www.commongrace.org.au/william\\_cooper\\_1937\\_petition](https://www.commongrace.org.au/william_cooper_1937_petition)
- Yirrkala bark petitions 1963: Petitions from the Yolngu people of Yirrkala seeking the recognition of the Commonwealth Parliament of rights to their traditional lands on the Gove Peninsula in Arnhem Land:  
<https://www.foundingdocs.gov.au/item-did-104.html>
- Larrakia Petition 1972: A petition to the Queen for land rights  
<https://www.naa.gov.au/students-and-teachers/learning-resources/learning-resource-themes/first-australians/politics-and-advocacy/larrakia-petition-queen-land-rights>
- Barunga Statement 1988: A call on the Australian Government and people to recognise the rights of First Nations peoples  
<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/barunga-statement#:~:text=The%20Barunga%20Statement%20was%20a,painting%20of%20the%20Barunga%20Statement>
- Commitment to constitutional recognition 2007: In his 2007 pre-election commitments, former Prime Minister John Howard committed to a referendum to recognise First Nations peoples  
[http://podcast.thesydneyinstitute.com.au/podcasts/2007/THE\\_SYDNEY\\_INSTITUTE\\_JOHN%20HOWARD\\_12\\_OCTOBER\\_2007.mp3](http://podcast.thesydneyinstitute.com.au/podcasts/2007/THE_SYDNEY_INSTITUTE_JOHN%20HOWARD_12_OCTOBER_2007.mp3)
- Kirribilli Statement 2015: Issued by forty senior First Nations peoples after meeting with the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader to ask for a new process of consultation of First Nations communities  
<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/ILB/2015/37.pdf>
- Indigenous Voice Co-design Process Final Report to the Australian Government: Tom Calma and Marcia Langton Report <https://voice.gov.au/>