

By Michael Henry AM

Writing in support of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is one of the most important documents of the past decade for Australia. Developed by an inclusive consultative process amongst first nation leaders, it captures what they respectfully request of Australia. At its core, the Uluru Statement asks for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The immediate misrepresentation and rejection of that request by the previous government was a disgrace.

We soon will have an opportunity to respond positively to the Uluru Statement by supporting a change to our constitution to implement an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. We can formally acknowledge the wealth, tragedy, and importance of our indigenous history, and at the same time establish a mechanism to consult indigenous Australians on matters which affect them. It would show respect for our history, and help to make us a more cohesive nation.

Approval of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament would make it much easier for all Australians to be proud of our country.

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