

By Stephanie Alexander AO

I'm writing to wholeheartedly lend my support to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament – The Voice. The Voice ensures that the concerns and opinions of the indigenous population are heard in policy discussion and decisions that affect their lives. The Voice is a timely invitation to the Australian public, non-Indigenous and Indigenous alike, to come together collectively to recognise our history and to shape our future.

The Voice has a vital role to play in creating real, structural change. It will provide a depth of knowledge required to meet the needs of the Australia of tomorrow. One that is inclusive, reflective and authentic. One that cares for and takes mind of all inhabitants leaving no-one behind.

The Voice is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible collective strength of First Nations people. A step towards closing the gap and understanding that we are deeply privileged to reside in a country that is home to the oldest living culture on earth.

In 2004 I founded the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation. Our work strives to ensure the next generation feels connected to the earth and has the skills to care for it. We also hope the work awakens a curiosity and respect for Country in children and young people as understood by First Nations people. We see the Voice as a way to foster openness and curiosity for all Australian people.