



PROGRESSING VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH

A QUARTERLY UPDATE TO OUR PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORTERS



MAY 2020

MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR MEGAN DAVIS, PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR INDIGENOUS, UNSW SYDNEY



Tuesday 26th May 2020 marked the third anniversary of the historic day that I read the Uluru Statement from the Heart to the Australian people on behalf of the Uluru senior leadership. Since then, because of our continued support, the Uluru Dialogues supported by the Indigenous Law Centre (ILC) UNSW, have been able to continue the important work of driving constitutional reform.

This work has involved many activities over the past three years: submissions to the Joint Select Parliamentary inquiry on Uluru; coordinating a letter to the Prime Minister and Minister Ken Wyatt from the Uluru dialogues on a process for developing a Voice to Parliament in 2019; convening workshops to discuss legal and political strategy in Cairns in

2017, 2018, 2019; constitutional expert workshops and a Uluru Youth Summit in December 2020. We have also maintained the UluruStatement.org website, an education website we set up immediately after we returned from the Uluru meeting. Much has been accomplished in that time, but there is still much to do.

Our work has continued despite the challenges faced over the past couple of months due to the unknown and everchanging nature of COVID-19. We continue to drive constitutional reform, rewrite the history books, and pave the way for a more just and prosperous future for this country's First Nations Peoples.

To commemorate the Uluru Statement's three-year anniversary, we launched the *Month of Awareness* social media campaign in May, inviting all Australians to walk with Indigenous Australia for a better future and to explain the reforms called for. We shared news and stories, important information and videos from the Uluru senior leadership and Uluru young leaders. We also showcased the amazing support the Uluru Statement continues to receive. Our month of awareness can be followed via our social media accounts @ulurustatement and by following #UluruStatement.

We also held our first extensive online engagement, *Photos of the Uluru Convention*. The event featured special guests Pat Anderson AO, Wayne Bergmann, Sally Scales, Professor Gabrielle Appleby and Referendum Council, and Uluru dialogues and ILC Photographer Jimmy Widders Hunt. Panellists discussed photography of the Uluru convention and reflected on the importance of the event and the continuing drive for constitutional reform. The event will be the first of many online engagements planned for the Uluru dialogues.

Important work lies ahead of us all to ensure that constitutional reform is informed by the First Nations Peoples and that the reforms delivered by the government remain true to those set forth by the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Thank you for continuing to walk with us. Together, we can take Australia on a journey to a better future for us all. Thank you for your support.



PROFILE: AUNTY PAT

Social justice advocate Patricia Anderson AO is an Alyawarre woman who advocates for the health of Australia's First Peoples. Patricia grew up in Parap Camp in Darwin, before leaving in the 1960s to travel and work in the UK, the Netherlands and Israel. On her return to Australia, Patricia worked for the Woodward Royal Commission into Aboriginal Land Rights as a legal secretary, and in 1980 was one of the first Aboriginal women to graduate from the University of Western Australia, with a degree majoring in literature. She is a passionate campaigner for social justice, and has devoted her career to improving the health, welfare and education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Patricia is the Chair of the Lowitja Institute and was Co-Chair of the Referendum Council that led to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and she has been heavily involved with driving this work through the ILC since.

WITH A LITTLE PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FROM OUR FRIENDS—THANK YOU

Thank you to our philanthropic partners who have contributed. So far, we have received \$545,000 and a further \$360,000 has been pledged to reach our goal of \$2.6 million over three years to support the Dialogues and the design of the Voice. Additionally, the Balnaves Foundation donated \$1.25 million, to establish the Balnaves Chair in honour of Alexandra Balnaves who sadly passed away recently.

The chair enables Professor Davis to focus on driving this critical national agenda, to provide the academic rigour needed to inform the design of a voice to parliament, a future Makarrata Commission and to facilitate truth-telling processes

Together, your support enables us to continue this critical work ensuring First Nations Peoples voices are front and centre.





IMPACTS OF COVID-19

The response of Government and other key organisations to the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous communities, is a reminder of how important structural reform is in empowering First Nations Peoples. The ILC's marquee publication, Indigenous Law Bulletin, will provide an outlet for the Indigenous community to express their experience during the COVID-19 pandemic and discuss the response taken.

The final edition of the Indigenous Law Bulletin will focus on pandemic preparation in Indigenous communities and the complex intersection of public health and the law. It will also consider the social determinants of health that crosscut the virus' response and recovery, survey the interaction of the Commonwealth, State and Territory jurisdictions and look at the impact on communities from restrictions to movement and gatherings.

COVID-19 has forced the Uluru dialogues and the ILC to rethink how we share the continuing reform process and stay connected to our supporters. In July, we are launching an educational website to help with this. On the 26th May, we began hosting a series of online webinars which will continue to run throughout the year.

WHAT'S HAS BEEN **HAPPENING**



Month of Awareness campaign

A social media awareness campaign was launched in May to prepare for the third anniversary of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.



Uluru dialogues

Engagement has continued with the Uluru dialogues leadership team and the Uluru youth dialogues with a leadership zoom conference initially held Tuesday 14 May and regular meetings planned moving forward. Planning with the Uluru dialogues continues how best to impact and direct the reform process still being carried out by the government while ensuring advocacy for a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution remains from and centre.



Photos of the Uluru convention

An online event to mark the third anniversary of the Uluru Statement from the Heart called "Photos of the Uluru Convention on the third anniversary". Further information available here: https://bit.ly/ photos-uluru-convention



New Uluru dialogues website

The construction of a new Uluru dialogues website (based on the current ulurustatement.org) is almost finished. The new website will be launched in July and act as an authoritative source of education and awareness on the Uluru Statement. It is designed to inform visitors on the history of Indigenous advocacy and the necessity of constitutional reform.



The work of the Uluru dialogues and the ILC are more important than ever as the process of a voice to government continues. It is essential that the Uluru dialogues remain central, well resourced, informed and supported so that it can be a leading voice and influence on the reform process and ensure that Australians have their say at a referendum on the enshrinement of a First Nations Voice in the constitution.

To ensure this, the Uluru dialogues and the ILC has a busy year ahead including:

- Continuing the social media campaign to raise awareness and educate
- Launching the new UluruStatement.org website
- Virtual dialogues and constitutional reform research seminars



ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

"WE SEEK CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS TO EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE AND TAKE A RIGHTFUL PLACE IN OUR OWN COUNTRY"









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