



Australian College of  
**Midwives**

ACM: For midwives. With women. For the future.

# POSITION STATEMENT

## Uluru Statement from the Heart

Issued March 2023



## **The Australian College of Midwives position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart**

The Uluru Statement from the Heart (Uluru Statement) was released on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017 by delegates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Referendum Convention, a convention process that was established with bipartisan support. The statement calls for a 'First Nations Voice' in the Constitution of Australia and a Makarrata Commission to supervise agreement-making and truth-telling between governments at all levels and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Representing over 4,000 members nationally, the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) is a national not-for-profit membership organisation and the peak professional body for midwives in Australia.

The ACM Board unanimously supports speaking in favour of the Uluru Statement. Many of our Members are actively seeking ways to support Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander women as part of their business-critical sustainability activities and because it is simply the right thing to do. ACM is encouraging all of our Members to support a referendum for the adoption of the requests in the Uluru Statement.

ACM respectfully suggests that the following process would achieve effective Constitutional recognition. Once a model is settled, then a referendum on the Voice should occur. Immediately following a "Yes" vote in the referendum, Parliament would then formalise the design and procedures of the First Nations' Voice with enabling legislation.

The requests put forward by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders in the Uluru Statement provide an opportunity for Australia to acknowledge our difficult history and move forward together in a genuine process of reconciliation.

ACM further supports the requests put forth that the Voice allows for contribution and participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from diverse backgrounds, and not just the voices of established leadership figures. This latter request will help ensure that the Voice is representative of the ever evolving needs of all our Indigenous peoples.

Growing support for the Uluru Statement's three tenets of Voice, Treaty, Truth is building across Australian society. Discussions of how to best address those challenges will require input from all Australians, and so it is critical that Indigenous Australians are recognised and heard.

The time has come.

## **What can I do to support the Uluru Statement?**

- Know the material: become familiar with the Uluru Statement, what it calls for and what it means.
- Share your support and have conversations with colleagues, friends, family etc.
- Write to your Minister and elected representatives.
- Use social media as a tool for sharing your support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart #UluruStatement #VoiceTreatyTruth.
- Share information about the Uluru Statement and what it calls for through your personal and professional networks via email.
- Read and educate yourself. Knowing about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories can be a simple way to understand, find out about your local area and learn how to support the campaign.