

# Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Voice National Referendum



Flourish Australia is an organisation that values lived experience, and the role it plays in guiding our work. Our commitment to mental health and social and emotional wellbeing means we believe in the philosophy of “nothing about us without us”.

The current debate about a Voice to Parliament challenges us to reflect deeply on our values, and our work supporting people’s mental health and social and emotional wellbeing. We believe it is an opportunity for us to show that we stand by our commitment to privilege the voice of lived experience.

## Our Position

Responding to the generous invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, we agree it’s time to walk together as a nation for a better future; one that future generations can build on and be proud of.

## WE PLEDGE OUR SUPPORT TO THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

### Flourish Australia supports the three main actions of the Uluru Statement from the Heart:

#### VOICE

Establishment of a First Nations  
(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)  
Voice to parliament

#### TREATY

Establishment of a Makarrata  
Commission to supervise  
a process of agreement making

#### TRUTH

Truth-telling about  
our history

Australian’s are being asked to vote ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the Voice. The constitutional change will add the following words:

“In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- (i) there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
- (ii) the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- (iii) the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.”

## WE PLEDGE OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

### Our Commitment

As a practical demonstration of our pledge and our commitment Flourish Australia will:

- Provide opportunities for our staff and people we support to actively participate in the discussions leading up to the referendum.
- Provide access to up to date, truthful and accurate information about the referendum and the Voice to Parliament for people to make informed decisions.
- Encourage people to register to vote in the lead up to the referendum.

### Our ongoing Responsibilities:

As a practical demonstration of our pledge and our commitment Flourish Australia will:

- Listen to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, people and communities about their social and emotional wellbeing needs and how to support them.
- Support the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including staff, people accessing supports and their communities.
- Advocate at all levels of the mental health sector for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to determine their future.
- Partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to decolonise the mental health sector through Nation building activities.
- Prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focussed projects in grant seeking activities.
- Use Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led research to inform our culturally responsive service delivery.
- Continue to invest in our First Nations staff, providing them opportunity to come together, learn, connect, and to advise and guide us on issues important to First Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.