

Esperance Community Arts Board Statement - The Voice to Parliament

As an organisation committed to acknowledging and collaborating with the Wudjari Nyungar Traditional Owners and all other First Nations people in our community, we strongly endorse the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, the consensus position of 1200 First Nations representatives from around Australia. This Statement represents a monumental milestone in Australia's journey towards reconciliation and justice and is a powerful expression of the aspirations and wisdom of First Nations peoples; it called for constitutional recognition and a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament.

We join our key partners Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and Escare Incorporated, our peak body, Regional Arts WA, and many charitable organisations throughout the nation to proudly express our support for the "Yes" vote in the upcoming Referendum to enshrine a Voice to Parliament for Australia's First Nations people.

Esperance Community Arts firmly believes in the principles of First Nations self-determination, cultural authority, and leadership. Our experience of working with First Nations leaders in our community and with First Nations artist- facilitators has clearly demonstrated that First Nations leadership is essential to ensure positive outcomes for First Nations community members and for the wider community.

We advocate for the right of First Nations peoples to have a meaningful say in decisions that affect their lives, communities, and cultural heritage. The Voice will provide a platform for First Nations peoples to contribute their knowledge, perspectives, and lived experiences to the legislative and policy-making processes at the highest level of government. The establishment of a Voice to Parliament is a crucial step towards a national culture that provides equity and fairness.

Esperance Community Arts acknowledges First Nation peoples deep and enduring connection to Country and immense cultural wealth, including their unique artistic and cultural expressions. In saying "Yes", we aim to honour and embrace the spirit of reconciliation and truth-telling.

We urge regional Australia's arts and creative sectors to join us in supporting a "Yes" vote in the upcoming Referendum for Constitutional Recognition and a Voice to Parliament, in alignment with the principles set forth in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Let us collectively acknowledge the past and work towards a more just nation that values the culture, voices, and rights of all Australians.

If you would like to discuss Esperance Community Arts Statement on the Voice, please contact Dr Jane Mulcock, Executive Officer on admin@esperancecommunityarts.org.au

Read the referendum question at the official [Voice](#) page

- Read information on the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)
- Learn useful context and background from [Reconciliation Australia](#)
- Legal experts answer [10 questions about the Voice to Parliament \(theconversation.com\)](#)
- Australian Human Rights Commission [Resource Kit on the Voice Referendum](#)