

## Dietitians Australia Position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Voice to Parliament

Dietitians Australia acknowledges all traditional custodians of the lands, waters, and seas that we work and live on across Australia. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and future and thank them for their continuing custodianship.

At Dietitians Australia, we hold a deep commitment to reconciliation as outlined in our Reconciliation Action Plan, and we support self-determination and First Nations-led policies and actions that aim to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

As dietitians, we understand that health and well-being are inseparable from social, cultural and political factors and that health disparities faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are deeply rooted in historical injustices, dispossession, and ongoing systemic inequities.

Addressing these challenges requires an approach recognising the importance of self-determination, cultural safety, and community-led initiatives. The Voice to Parliament and the Uluru Statement, as developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, provide the critical mechanisms to drive this change.

We accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to build a better future. **Dietitians Australia fully supports the recommendation for a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the constitution.**

Dietitians Australia supports constitutional reforms that empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to take a rightful place in their own country, ensure their involvement in the development of all the laws and policies affecting them, and acknowledge that enshrining the Voice to Parliament in the constitution will ensure it is protected from subsequent governments overturning the decision.

Dietitians Australia also supports the recommendation for truth-telling to facilitate reconciliation in Australia, ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are heard, and their knowledge is valued and respected in our work to improve health and wellbeing.

Dietitians Australia acknowledges there will be diverse views within the membership and the community regarding the proposed Voice to Parliament.

Our organisation encourages all members to seek information to support their knowledge of the upcoming Referendum on The Voice and to consider how it can support self-determination and, as a result benefit the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

For more information, please see <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/support-a-voice-to-parliament/> or <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/>