

# What has to be done: History, reconciliation and the new parliament

2019 Parliamentary Library  
National Reconciliation Week Lecture

Professor Tom Calma AO,  
Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this presentation contains images of deceased persons.*

# North



**Iwaidja**

**Kungarakany**

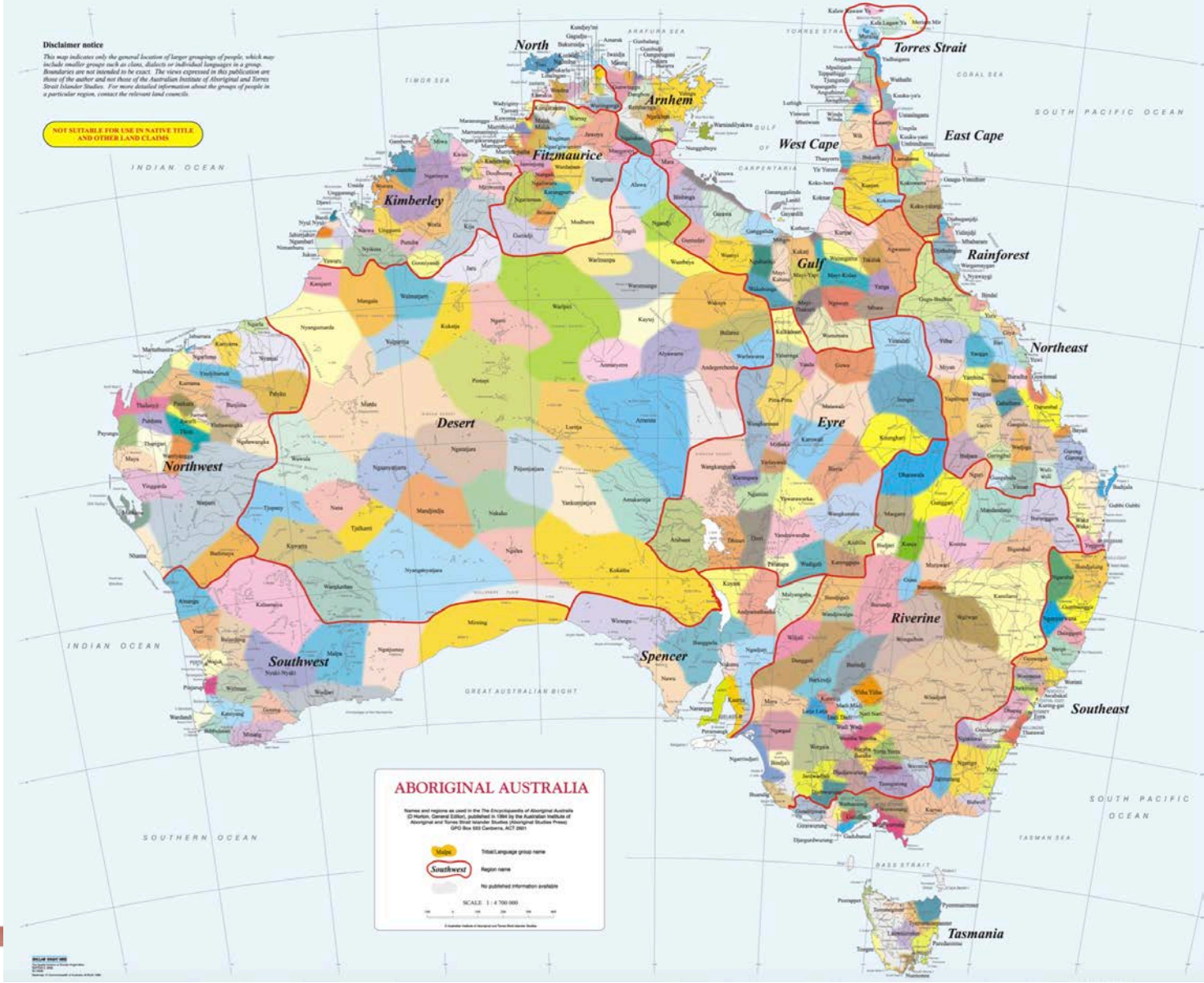


RECONCILIATION  
AUSTRALIA

**Disclaimer notice**

This map indicates only the general location of larger groupings of people, which may include smaller groups such as clans, dialects or individual languages in a group. Boundaries are not intended to be exact. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author and not those of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. For more detailed information about the groups of people in a particular region, contact the relevant land councils.

NOT SUITABLE FOR USE IN NATIVE TITLE AND OTHER LAND CLAIMS



**ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA**

Names and regions as used in the *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia* (2nd edition, General Editor, published in 1994 by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (Aboriginal Studies Press). GPO Box 588 Canberra, ACT 2601.

Legend:

- Yellow circle: Tribal/Language group name
- Red circle: Region name
- Light blue circle: No published information available

SCALE: 1 : 4 700 000





**The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF),** established in 1999, is a registered national charity dedicated to **raising language, literacy and numeracy standards** in Australia.



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The Australian  
Literacy & Numeracy  
Foundation

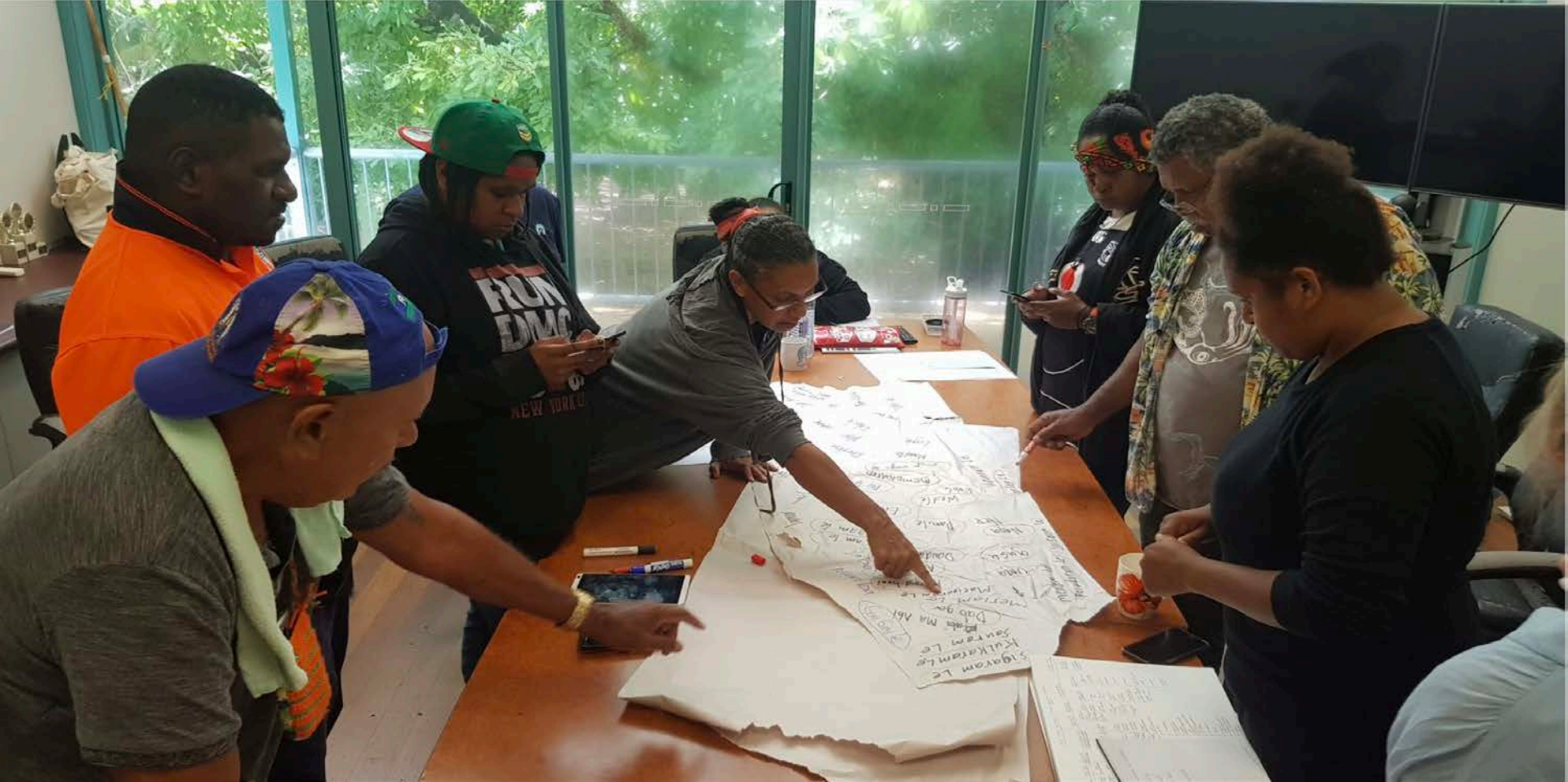
# LIVING FIRST LANGUAGE APP

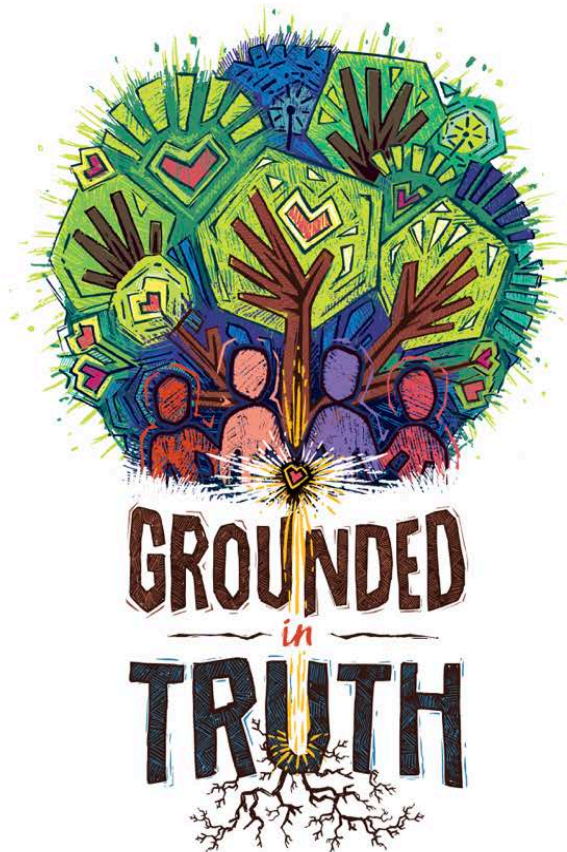
Preservation and revitalisation of Indigenous First Languages through our work developing literacy resources and teaching strategies in communities across Australia.

Community-driven, interactive and dynamic digital literacy apps for not only First Language speakers, but also the many communities that support them. The ground-breaking platform includes key features that enhance literacy outcomes, and offers a faster and more scalable means to efficiently and effectively capture and share languages.

The Living First Language Platform won in its category of 'Innovation in Connecting People' at the world-renowned SXSW Interactive Innovation Awards held in Austin, Texas in March 2019.







# NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2019

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

WALK TOGETHER WITH COURAGE



Learn more at [reconciliation.org.au](http://reconciliation.org.au)

#NRW2019 #GroundedinTruth



RECONCILIATION  
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## CLOSING THE GAP TARGETS

### EARLY EDUCATION



95 % of all Indigenous four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education by 2025.



On track

### YEAR 12 ATTAINMENT



Halve the gap in Year 12 attainment by 2020.



On track

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

Close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation by 2031.



Not on track

### CHILD MORTALITY RATES



To halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade, by 2018.



Not on track

### EMPLOYMENT



Halve the gap in employment by 2018.



Not on track

### READING AND NUMERACY



Halve the gap in reading and numeracy for Indigenous students by 2018



Not on track

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



Close the gap in school attendance within five years, by 2018.



Not on track





**RECONCILIATION**  
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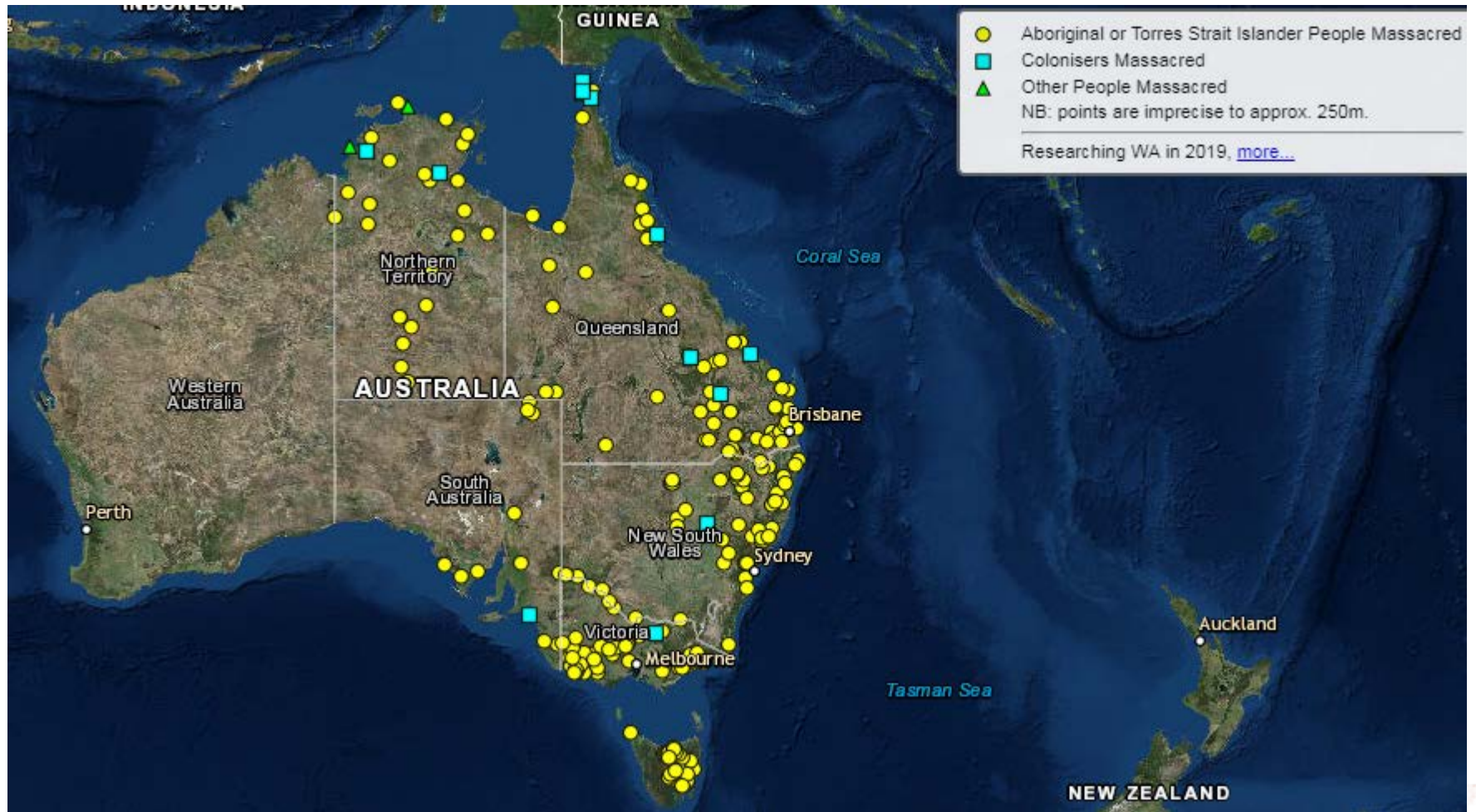
Representatives of all peak Indigenous bodies with Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion (AAP Image/Dan Peled)

# Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peaks Bodies

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, through their peak body representatives, will share decision making with governments on Closing the Gap.
- Made up of nearly 40 members of national and state / territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Bodies.
- Joint Council on Closing the Gap and Partnership Working Groups.
- More info: [www.naccho.org.au](http://www.naccho.org.au).



Source: University of Newcastle



**PORTRAIT OF ANTHONY MARTIN  
FERNANDO BY RAJ NAGI**

**A PORTRAIT OF AN UNKNOWN  
INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN ACTIVIST,  
ANTHONY MARTIN FERNANDO, WHO  
TOOK ABORIGINAL PROTEST TO  
LONDON IN THE 1920S. STANDING  
OUTSIDE LONDON'S AUSTRALIA HOUSE  
IN HIS SKELETON-DECORATED COAT, HIS  
CRY WAS: 'THIS IS WHAT THE  
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DONE  
TO MY PEOPLE'.**

**AS THERE ARE NO KNOWN  
PHOTOGRAPHS OF FERNANDO, THE  
ARTIST DID NOT INCLUDE THE WHOLE  
FACE IN THIS IMAGINED PORTRAIT.**



**RECONCILIATION  
AUSTRALIA**



Source:  
AIATSIS

**A LARGE BLACKBOARD** displayed outside the hall proclaims, "Day of Mourning." Leaflets warned that, "Aborigines and persons of Aboriginal blood only are invited to attend." At 5 o'clock in the afternoon resolution of indignation, protest, was moved, passed.

Source: The Age, AIATSIS



Coleen Shirley (Mum Shirl) Smith AM



Dr Evelyn Scott. Image: AAP



**ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART**

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from Time immemorial and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must use day return (tjirra) to be united with our father, of sovereignty. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil or and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This

cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the tenet of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

*Uluru - ku Tjukupa by Happy Reid*

**CHRISTIANE BRUMBY** **RENS KALITA TJAMA** **JAMMY WILSON** **YANGKUNYATJARA** **PITJAN TJARA** **MARUKUL**

*(The document contains numerous handwritten signatures and names, including: BIAN BUTLER, Chris Abley, DOYEN RADCLIFFE, MELISSA MINNE, THRESE RADCLIFFE, BALANGGARRA, TINA WILLIAMS, SHARON GARDNER, SHE BOY GABLE, TINI ISIDORIS, ROMANA BULLIO, ROSANNE DE SOTIS, TINI ISIDORIS, SAMUEL BERSA, TINI ISIDORIS, MALALA - EAST NANTARA, RALPH PEAKINS, GUUSU YIMDHIRR, and many others.)*





BHP's CEO standing in front of the original Uluru statement in Perth on January 31

## Elevate

### – *Leadership in reconciliation*

An Elevate RAP is for organisations that have a proven track record of embedding effective RAP initiatives in their organisation through their Stretch RAPs and are ready to take on a leadership position to advance national reconciliation. **Elevate RAP organisations have a strong strategic relationship with Reconciliation Australia** and actively champion initiatives to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and create societal change.

**Image:** Protestors at the  
Aboriginal Tent Embassy.  
National Archives of  
Australia, A6180,  
14/3/74/338



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95%

Australians in the general community agree **it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that affect them**, compared with **94%** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Almost all Australians, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, think the relationship is important.



94%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and **90%** of Australians in the general community **feel our relationship is important**.

91%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and **80%** of Australians in the general community believe it is **important to undertake formal truth telling processes** in relation to Australia's shared history.



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**87%**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in **2018** (93% in 2016).

**agree that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are important to Australia's national identity.**



**79%**

Australians in the general community in **2018** (77% in 2016).

Pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures is increasing amongst Australians.



**86%**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in **2018** (90% in 2016).

**agree they are proud of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.**



**62%**

Australians in the general community in **2018** (60% in 2016).



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Racism, both perceived and experienced, has decreased slightly.



**33%** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **have experienced** at least one form of **verbal racial abuse** in the last 6 months (37% in 2016).



**51%**



**38%**

**51%** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe that **Australia is a racist country** (57% in 2016), compared with **38%** of the **general community** (39% in 2016).



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## “Roadmap” to progress reconciliation

- Addressing unresolved issues of national reconciliation, such as setting out a timeframe and process for advancing the issues proposed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.
- Supporting truth telling initiatives at a local, regional and national level.
- Supporting work across the breadth of reconciliation issues, including enhancing the role of Reconciliation Australia in leading and supporting local truth telling processes.

# Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition

- A regular parliamentary motion by which federal MPs can be held accountable to the Australian people, by indicating whether they support removing racism from the Constitution or not.
- A negotiation process between parliamentarians, the government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to finalise the working of constitutional recognition.





# Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition

- A new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Act to set out the framework for participation of Indigenous peoples and negotiating unfinished business.
- A national voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, participation in accountability processes through Senate estimates and the establishment of a truth and reconciliation royal commission.



ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF  
THE ATSIEB HEARINGS 2018**

EIGHTH REPORT TO THE  
ACT GOVERNMENT



## Welcome to the eighth report for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (the Elected Body) Hearings.

The hearings were held on 14 and 15 March 2018 and were the first hearings of this term of Elected Body members. Although the hearings went well, it is apparent that **there are a number of key focus areas that require our attention.....**

... It was evident to members throughout the hearings process that **some responses to questions were inadequate.** What we are looking for is tangible and measurable outcomes supported by evidence-based solutions which in turn change the day-to-day lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the better. We have included a number of recommendations that are specific to all directorates **and we expect all directorates to deliver positive outcomes.**



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The Community Guide to the  
**UN Declaration**  
on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

# United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

## Article 18:

*Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters that affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.*



# PARTNERING WITH INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS TO CLOSE THE GAP

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

27 Mar 2019

*Prime Minister, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Patricia Turner on behalf of the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisation*



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