



HCASA Position on *Uluru Statement from The Heart*

The Uluru Statement from the Heart <https://www.1voiceuluru.org/> reaffirms the sovereignty of the ancient tie between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the land. It calls for constitutional change to enshrine a First Nations Voice and for a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process whereby this will take place. HCASA acknowledges the shameful gaps in life-expectancy, health, education, employment and housing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. We know that non-health factors such as income and social status have a greater impact in determining health outcomes than clinical care. We know that successive federal, state and territory policies imposed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have sometimes contributed to, rather than diminished, those outcomes. We believe that the establishment of First Nations Voice will be an important step in ensuring the historical and lived experience of Indigenous peoples contributes to governance for greater health and equity for all Australians. We therefore echo the call by Consumers Health Forum, the national health consumers advocacy body in calling for our national government to give:

Recognition at the highest levels of leadership followed by an ongoing commitment to a genuine partnership will be central in reshaping and strengthening Australia's national identity and enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to flourish.