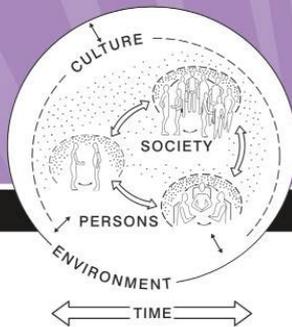


# SCA RESPONSE TO THE ULURU STATEMENT OF THE HEART

Marshall Leaver & Jessie Forbes



## Society and Culture Association

Founded 1984

Po Box 699, Lidcombe NSW 1825  
 Phone: (02) 9716 0378 Fax: (02) 9564 2342  
 Email: [info@sca.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@sca.nsw.edu.au)  
 Website: [www.sca.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sca.nsw.edu.au)

To the Governments of Australia,

### Society and Culture Association submission supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart

The Society and Culture Association Inc. represents hundreds of HSC Society and Culture teachers across NSW and over 8000 senior secondary students enrolled in our course each year. Our commitment is to promote the knowledge, skills and values embedded in our course. Integral to this pedagogy is the promotion of intercultural understanding through key elements of the syllabus goal of **social and cultural literacy** by:

- applying skills to achieve social inclusion and awareness of the issues of discrimination and prejudice
- avoiding making judgements of another culture's practices using the values of his or her own culture
- having a sense of social responsibility and displays active citizenship by engaging critically with social issues, and takes considered action for the welfare, dignity, social justice and human rights of others at the local, national and global levels

*(Society and Culture syllabus, NESA, 2013, p23)*

In our commitment to teaching and learning designed to achieve social and cultural literacy, our teachers undertake to provide authentic education which aspires to make our communities, our nation and the world a better place. The Society and Culture Association is 'the trusted voice' of the teachers and students we represent and we hold that **the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Makarrata Statement** provide a core vision for the way forward to a better future.

The Society and Culture Association calls on the Parliaments of Australia to actively support:

1. Changing the Constitution to include **recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples as the First Peoples of this Land** and expunge the implicit racist denial of their existence in this founding document of Australia. The Government must honour its election commitment to a referendum once a model for the Voice has been settled.
2. **Creating an institutional structure to enable ATSI Voices** to be heard. The wisdom of ATSI Elders and leaders must become a feature of our national conversation. This must apply not

## SCA RESPONSE TO THE ULURU STATEMENT OF THE HEART

only to legislation and policy which impact the lives of ATSI peoples but also provide a vision for a sustainable and grounded worldview that enriches our individual and collective lives. The 'deficit model' inflicted on our First Nations people being seen through the 'problems only' lens must change and our nation must aim to embrace the knowledge and understanding that draws on the wisdom of the Ancients and from this most ancient cultural heritage. The membership model for the National Voice must ensure previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same chance of being selected as established leadership figures. Additionally, enabling legislation for the Voice must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament.

3. Federal and State Parliaments must **embrace the notion of Makarrata**, whereby truths can be heard and shared. There must be a telling of the impact of the taking of lands, of the massacres, of forbidding culture and language, the stolen children, the stolen wages, the deaths in custody, as well as the day to day prejudices and discriminations which marginalise and repress. This truth-telling must allow for meaning restitution and resolution.

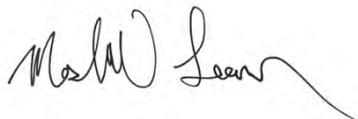
Please deliver meaningful policies which can make the three points above a reality in the lives of all Australians. Ignoring this will serve to make your time in leadership have a legacy of social exclusion, prejudice and discrimination which operates from a place of white privilege and holds no empathy for the lives of First Nations peoples. Use the social and cultural responsibility your leadership position offers and deliver positive action for the welfare, dignity, social justice and human rights of all Australians.

Only through a constitutional referendum will the Voice have the public legitimacy and authority it needs to make sure the government and Parliament will take its advice seriously. Our nation needs to be embedded in truth that recognises the sovereignty and deep wisdom of Aboriginal peoples; without this, we lose the opportunity to say that we are a nation committed to the betterment of our First Nations peoples, the oldest living culture in the world.

With respect,



Jessie Forbes  
Yuin Woman  
SCA Committee



Marshall Leaver  
Life Member  
SCA Committee

30 March 2021