

Media release Monday 19 June 2017

ULURU REPS CALL FOR URGENT VOICE PROGRESS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates from across Australia travelled to Sydney for the inaugural Uluru Statement working group meeting.

The meeting with representatives from 13 regions across the entirety of the country reaffirmed the determination to see a constitutional voice to parliament for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Over the weekend, they publicly announced that they propose that the proposed voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders should be representative, embedded within the Constitution, and such that it provides greater self-determination. They further report that a roadmap will be proposed to the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader that includes the timing for the constitutional process and then legislative development for the body and the Makarrata Commission.

During the historic two day meeting, the group gathered at the site of the 1938 Day of Mourning protest, reflecting on the brave and unrelenting efforts of their Indigenous forebears of the struggle.

Newly elected Co-Chair Josie Crawshaw, one of three Co-Chairs for the 29 strong work group reflected on her lifetime involvement in activism for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights.

Ms Crawshaw is from the Northern Territory, she reflected that “In 1988 I came to Sydney to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survival. We made an impact at the Centenary, and the Government promised a National Treaty with First Nations at Barunga in response to the Barunga Statement.”

“Like many times before and since the Barunga Statement, the promise for National Treaty was broken. The Uluru Statement from the Heart seeks to correct that.” Ms Crawshaw said.

Suzanne Thompson, another of the Co-Chairs is from Barcaldine, a place known for early struggles for the great Australian “fair go”. She expressed the need for continuing bi-partisan support and engagement with the proposals in the statement. “We need all organisations, left, right, and indifferent to join us in saying it is time to settle this unfinished business so that our country, with its most ancient and unique culture, can reconcile our past and look to our future.

Ms Crawshaw and Ms Thompson join Thomas Mayor as Co-Chairs. They on behalf of the group are calling for a national movement of all Australians to join the #1VoiceUluru movement.

National Media Contact:
Thomas Mayor
tmayor@outlook.com.au
0437 650 221