

LEADING LAW FIRMS ISSUE JOINT RESPONSE TO THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

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Firm news

Eighteen leading law firms in Australia have issued a joint public response in support of the Uluru Statement From the Heart.

The supporting law firms are Allens, Arnold Bloch Leibler, Ashurst, Baker McKenzie, Clayton Utz, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Dentons, DLA Piper, Fisher Dore, Gilbert + Tobin, Herbert Smith Freehills, Holding Redlich, Jackson McDonald, King & Wood Mallesons, Lander & Rogers, Minter Ellison, Norton Rose Fulbright and Russell Kennedy.

Their collective response to the Uluru Statement From the Heart is as follows:

To the First Nations of Australia:

Thank you for your Uluru Statement From the Heart, an invitation to Australia and the Australian people.

Thank you for your invitation to walk with you in a movement of all Australian people for a better future.

We recognise the Uluru Statement From the Heart as an historic mandate to create a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

We hear and support your call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution and for a referendum as a national priority.

We look forward to working with and supporting you, governments and all Australia to take this next step towards reconciliation.

Released in May 2017, the Uluru Statement From the Heart is a national Indigenous consensus position on Indigenous constitutional reform, which was drafted at the end of a three-day constitutional convention of 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates. The Statement was the culmination of 13 Regional Dialogues held around the country during a year-long consultation.

To view the Uluru Statement of the Heart, click [here](#).

Speaking on behalf of the group of 18 law firms, Brooke Massender, Head of Pro Bono at Herbert Smith Freehills, said: “The historic consensus reached at Uluru was a major milestone in the journey towards achieving substantive constitutional reform. Through this broad collaborative response we are signalling clearly that First Nations voices matter and should be heard.”

Joanna Renkin, Partner, Pro Bono & Community, Lander & Rogers, added: “The Uluru Statement represents an invitation for all Australians to come together in a national dialogue that will help to positively shape our national identity. As lawyers, we felt that we were well placed to respond to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and we were very keen to do so. We encourage other law firms, professional services firms and corporations across the country to join this important conversation.”

Megan Davis, Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous, UNSW, and member of the Referendum Council said: “The endorsement of the Uluru Statement From the Heart by Australia’s leading law firms is a historic development in the journey toward constitutional recognition of First Nations.

“Constitutional change is a formidable task in Australia. We have been working on this process for almost a decade. To have our leading law firms support the referendum as a national priority should inspire great confidence in the Australian community that this reform is modest and achievable.

“I applaud these 18 law firms to show this leadership in their moving collective response to our call at Uluru for Australians to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.”

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