

“A First Nations Voice, protected by the Constitution, will mean that agreement-making and truth-telling can finally be done on equal terms. With Voice, we can begin the journey of coming together after a struggle.” – Makarrata

‘Australia is a proud and diverse nation with a rich cultural heritage that dates back 65,000 years. The First Australians, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, have deep connections to this land and have played a vital role in shaping the society we know today.

But despite this, our constitution, which is 122 years old, still does not recognize the unique and important contributions of the First Australians - it's time for that to change.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a call by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for real and practical change in Australia through the establishment of a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament. ’ - *Yes 23*

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the many lands that encompass our respective dioceses – Ballarat, Sale, Sandhurst and the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

We pay our respects to Elders and ancestors both past and present, who built the bridges that we now walk on as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples towards self-determination.

We pay our respects to our first educators who have taught and continue to teach countless numbers of children their cultures, traditions and languages for thousands of years, generation to generation.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who live, work, teach and learn within Catholic education in Victoria.

We commit to working together to create culturally safe schools for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to learn and thrive.

The following resources are available to further investigate:

- [Referendum - 1967](#)
- [Makarrata](#)
- [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)
- [Referendum - 2023](#)
- [Voice](#)
- [Treaty](#)
- [Truth](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Professional Learning Opportunities for Teachers](#)
- [Catholic Perspectives](#)

## 1967 Referendum

1967 Referendum		
<b>ABC</b>	<a href="#">Right Wrongs</a>	On 27 May 1967, Australians voted in a referendum to change how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were referred to in the Constitution. Explore these personal stories, opinions and historical recordings of what happened.
<b>Australians Together</b>	<a href="#">The 1967 Referendum</a>	The 1967 Referendum was a landmark achievement for Indigenous Australians. Following decades of Indigenous and non-Indigenous activism, over 90% of all Australians voted in favour of amending two sections of the Australian Constitution.
<b>Australians Together</b>	<a href="#">The Civil Rights Movement in Australia</a>	By the mid-1960s, Indigenous opposition to assimilation was strengthening and an Indigenous civil rights movement was growing under the banner of self-determination.
<b>Behind the News</b>	<a href="#">1967 Referendum</a> (3.59 mins)	This episode of Behind the News investigates the timeline and major events in the lead-up to the 1967 Referendum.
<b>Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies</b>	<a href="#">1967 Referendum</a>	Credible information on the 1967 Referendum.
<b>Deadly Story</b>	<a href="#">The 1967 Referendum</a>	Truth-telling for students.
<b>National Library of Australia</b>	<a href="#">1967 Referendum Timeline</a>	A timeline of events that led up to the 1967 Referendum.
<b>National Library of Australia</b>	<a href="#">Year 10 1967 Referendum Digital Classroom Activities</a>	Activities designed to activate Year 10 students' prior knowledge and to develop their understanding of the history surrounding the 1967 Referendum.

## Makarrata

Makarrata		
<b>Yulluna</b>	<a href="#">Voice. Treaty. Truth.</a>	Information on what a Makarrata is and outlines the journey so far.
<b>SBS On Demand</b>	<a href="#">The Point Episode 21 2019: Makarrata</a>	Beginning at 25.09 mins, The Point discusses what a Makarrata is.
<b>ABC</b>	<a href="#">What is a Makarrata? The Yolngu Word is More than a Synonym for Treaty</a>	Explores what a Makarrata actually is.
<b>Reconciliation NSW</b>	<a href="#">Makaratta Fact Sheet</a>	Fact sheet on Makaratta commission with accessible language for students.

## Uluru Statement from the Heart

Uluru Statement from the Heart		
<b>Uluru Statement from the Heart</b>	<a href="#">Uluru Statement Information</a>	Indigenous Constitutional Recognition, in the context of the call from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through Uluru Statement from the Heart, is amending the Australian Constitution to enshrine an Indigenous "Voice to Parliament". Recognition through a Voice goes beyond a symbolic gesture and advocates for practical change which will have a direct impact on the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the country.
<b>ABC iview</b>	<a href="#">Boyer Lectures 2019: Rachel Perkins – The End of Silence</a> (31 mins)	Rachel Perkins delivers the Boyer Lecture at a time of intensive debate, discussion and consultation about Indigenous constitutional recognition.
<b>Ted Talk</b>	<a href="#">The Uluru Statement from the Heart – An Idea Whose Time has Come</a> (19.46 mins)	Dean Parkin – Ted Talk Building on decades of activism in pursuit of constitutional reform and self-determination, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples reached out to the nation in a heartfelt effort to create a movement for a better future.

## 2023 Referendum

Referendum 2023		
<b>Yes 23</b>	<a href="#">Yes 23</a>	Yes 23 brings together grassroots organisations all campaigning for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through a Voice to Parliament.
<b>National Indigenous Australian's Agency</b>	<a href="#">Referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice</a>	Consider the referendum through the lens of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referendum question</li> <li>• Constitutional amendment</li> <li>• The Voice design principles</li> </ul>
<b>Australian Government</b>	<a href="#">Recognition Through a Voice</a>	Read the referendum question and constitutional amendment.
<b>Garratt Publishing and Opening the Doors Foundation</b>	<a href="#">Register for Voice to Parliament Webinar</a>	Join Fr Frank Brennan, SJ, AO and Vicki Clark OAM on 24 May at 5p.m. as they explore the planned referendum suggesting an alteration to the Australian Constitution that establishes a First Nations Voice. Please note that it being recorded for later use.

## Voice

Voice		
<b>Reconciliation Victoria</b>	<a href="#">Voice to Parliament</a>	Visit Reconciliation Victoria for resources in regard to 'Voice to Parliament'
<b>Get Up</b>	<a href="#">Get Up!</a>	The referendum conversation we need to have. Also addresses FAQs about the Referendum.
<b>Maggolee</b>	<a href="#">Voice to Parliament</a>	Reconciliation Victoria explores the Voice to Parliament including the question of how the Voice will work to strengthen First Nations communities.
<b>Reconciliation Australia</b>	<a href="#">Voice to Parliament</a>	Find the answers to questions such as: Why do we need a First Nations Voice and how do we get a First Nations Voice to Parliament?
<b>Guardian Australia</b>	<a href="#">Indigenous Voice to Parliament</a> (8.34 mins)	Indigenous Affairs reporter Sarah Collard explains what we know so far about the Voice, how would it work and what it means for all Australians.
<b>Griffith University</b>	<a href="#">A Better Future for All</a>	A recording of an interview between acclaimed filmmaker and producer Rachel Perkins and Kerry O'Brien. The conversation canvasses the vital role Rachel has taken in the fight for Indigenous constitutional recognition as a key supporter in the creation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

## Treaty

Treaty		
<b>Reconciliation Victoria</b>	<a href="#">It's Time for Treaty - A Guide for Schools</a>	It's Time for Treaty- A guide for schools and early learning centers.
<b>Australians Together</b>	<a href="#">Australians Together</a>	Did you know Australia that doesn't have a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples?
<b>Common Ground</b>	<a href="#">The Barunga Statement and Agreement</a>	On 12 June 1988, the Barunga Statement was presented to Prime Minister Bob Hawke at the annual Barunga Cultural and Sporting Festival. The statement was written on bark and called for self-determination, a national system of land rights, compensation, an end to discrimination, respect for Aboriginal identity, and the granting of social, economic and cultural rights.
<b>SBS On Demand</b>	<a href="#">The Point Episode 3 2019: Treaty</a>	The Point discuss - What is Treaty?
<b>Victorian Government</b>	<a href="#">Treaty in Victoria</a>	Provides background information on the history and current status of Treaty within Victoria as well as the establishment of a First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

## Truth

Truth		
<b>Yoorrook Justice Commission</b>	<a href="#">Yoorrook Justice Commission</a>	The Yoorrook Justice Commission is the first formal truth-telling process into historical and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples in Victoria.
<b>First Peoples Victoria</b>	<a href="#">First Peoples' Assembly</a>	The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is the independent and democratically elected body to represent Traditional Owners of Country and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Victoria.

## Music

Music		
YouTube clip	<a href="#">Do You See Me?</a> (2.17 min)	By Deb Cheetham and the Dhungala singers.
Midnight Oil website	<a href="#">Midnight Oil</a>	Information on Midnight Oil's album 'The Makaratta Project'. Midnight Oil, a band well known for their campaigning for social justice issues including the rights for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Peoples, collaborates with various Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Enjoy!
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	<a href="#">AIATSIS Treaty Yothu Yindi</a>	Information on Yothu Yindi's song 'Treaty' which was a worldwide hit and the first song by a mainly Aboriginal band to peak on the ARIA singles chart. It was also the first song in an Aboriginal Australian language to gain extensive international recognition.
YouTube clip	<a href="#">Voice, Treaty, Truth, Now</a> (1.34 mins)	Marliya Choir.

## Resources

Resources		
Black Inc Books	<a href="#">Statements from the Soul: The Moral Case for the Uluru Statement from the Heart</a>	A collection of passionate essays from religious leaders arguing for a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution.
Hardie Grant Publishing	<a href="#">Finding the Heart of the Nation</a>	Thomas Mayo is a Torres Strait Islander man born on Larrakia Country in Darwin. Following the Uluru Convention, Thomas was entrusted to carry the sacred canvas of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. He then embarked on an eighteen-month journey around the country to garner support for a constitutionally enshrined First Nations voice, and a Makarrata Commission for truth-telling and agreement-making or treaties.
YouTube clip	<a href="#">Finding Our Heart - A story about the Uluru Statement for Young Australians</a> (6.02 mins)	Author Thomas Mayor reads his new book, 'Finding Our Heart - A story about the Uluru Statement for young Australians'.
Reconciliation NSW	<a href="#">Voice Treaty Truth</a>	Suggested actions, explanations and resources.

## Professional Learning Opportunities for Teachers

### Professional Learning Opportunities for Teachers

#### Indigenous Constitutional Recognition through a Voice

[From the Heart Course](#)

In the course, you'll discover what is meant by Indigenous Constitutional Recognition through a Voice – and what a Voice to Parliament is and is not. You will also learn why a Referendum is required to make it happen. This course will take approximately 30 minutes.

## Catholic Perspectives

### Catholic Perspectives

#### Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

[Bishops Endorse Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)

Australia's Catholic Bishops, on the recommendation of their key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisers, have endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

#### Caritas

[Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)

This resource is intended as a source of information and reflection on the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

#### Plenary Council

[Plenary Council Officially Endorses Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)

Provides information on the Plenary Council's endorsement of Uluru Statement from the Heart.

#### Eureka Street

[Voices Beyond Yes and No](#)

Celeste Liddle, an Arrernte woman and social commentator, raises questions relating to both the Yes and No campaigns.

Minister Burney, with fire in the belly, challenged us to be ready to continue the fight for Voice, Treaty and Truth:

“Friends, we have the oldest continuous cultures in the world – and that’s something we should all celebrate. It’s a gift to all of us. This is a once in a generation opportunity to build lasting change. To take the next steps on the long walk to reconciliation. So it is upon all of us to walk this road of reconciliation together. It’s on all of us to be present and to commit to the hard work that needs to be done. Let’s build a better future, together.”