

## **Lithgow Youth City Council submission**

As members of the Lithgow Youth Council we would like to address the Australian Government in regards to the Indigenous Voice proposal and to endorse the Indigenous voice initiative.

We want to acknowledge the courage and determination of past and present generations of Australian First nations people. Aboriginal Australians who are Australia's living culture, culture that is carried in their bodies as part of who WE are. The same way that WE all Australians, carry the impact of colonisation which disrupted us all profoundly. Colonisation has also shaped the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Under the concept of Terra Nullius, Aboriginal people were not recognised as sovereign people and owners of the land, despite the fact that many nations existed all across the continent.

We, the Lithgow Youth Council want to pay our respect to our First nations people and want to express our desire to walk together, guided by the Uluru Statement of the heart and support the "From the Heart" campaign for a voice to Parliament to be protected in our constitution.

We do not want indigenous children and youth, like us, to be unjustifiably removed from their parents. We want culturally sensitive awareness and practices.

We do not want our First nations youth continuously overrepresented in prisons but to have a rightful place in our community. Therefore, we want legislation to enable more opportunities for Aboriginal youth.

We want to live in a country where everyone is represented, where we all come together to preserve culture, languages and traditions, where Aboriginal people can make use of their right to participate in decisions that affect them. For a better future, for everyone who lives on this great land.

The Lithgow Youth Council declare our public support to a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous voice to the Australian parliament.