

Draft letter of support for the Uluru Statement from AARE

At our annual conference in Brisbane late last year, members of the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) unanimously voted to write to you as our nation's leader and to ask you to listen to the voices of Indigenous people in the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*.

We are not alone. The 2018 Reconciliation Barometer conducted by Reconciliation Australia found that 95% of Australians in the general community agree it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that affect them.

We call upon you to take action to ensure that the voices of First Nations peoples are heard when special laws are made about them under the powers of the constitution.

The supremacy of parliament will not be undermined by what is proposed.

Two hundred and fifty years after the arrival of James Cook, Australian settlers and migrants are yet to properly acknowledge their nation's Indigenous history and resolve the legacy of colonisation within our contemporary society.

Listening and responding to the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* affords the opportunity to provide Aboriginal peoples with more power of their destiny. The Statement demonstrates that Indigenous aspirations for recognition and voice continue, and they remain hopeful.

AARE supports the claim made by Aboriginal film maker Rachel Perkins during her 2019 Boyer lectures: 'How we move forward from this moment will set the course of relationships between Indigenous people and their fellow Australians into the future'.

