

19 July 2017

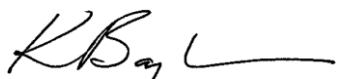
**JAWUN STATEMENT ON CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLES**

In May this year, Indigenous leaders from across the country convened at Uluru to discuss the best way forward for constitutional recognition of Australia's First Peoples. The outcome of those deliberations and the 12 dialogues held around the country was the Uluru Statement from the Heart, delivered on behalf of the group by Professor Megan Davis.

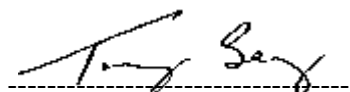
A clear consensus emerged from the Uluru Convention that Australia's First Peoples want substantive constitutional recognition and reject symbolic gestures alone. In essence, the First Peoples' consensus seeks a parliamentary voice embedded in the Australian Constitution and a Makarrata ('coming together after a struggle') Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about the nation's history.

On 30th June, the government appointed Referendum Council delivered a report to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten. The Council recommended that a referendum take place in Australia to insert an Indigenous voice in the Constitution by the creation of an Indigenous advisory body to parliament. The Council also recommended that a declaration of recognition, outside of the Constitution, be adopted by all Australian states to unite and inspire the nation.

Jawun supports substantive recognition and Australia's First Peoples having a legitimate voice in the affairs of this nation. We urge all Australians and particularly those who are part of the extended Jawun family, to consider the issues carefully and put your active support behind the recommendations of the Referendum Council. As co-chair of the Referendum Council Mark Leibler AC said, *"There is really only one way for our leaders and our nation to respond to the Referendum Council's report — that is to accept the destination and work together to chart the best course to get there."*



Karyn Baylis
CEO Jawun



Tony Berg AM
Chairman Jawun