

Bench and Bar Lunch



A Bench and Bar Lunch was held on Tuesday, 25 September at No.10 The Bistro. Nearly 70 members enjoyed fine food, fast service and lively conversation.

Uluru Statement from the Heart

Voice, Treaty, Truth



Noel Pearson signs the canvas where the Uluru Statement from the Heart will be painted on, during the closing ceremony in the Mutitjulu community of the First Nations National Convention held in Uluru, on Friday 26 May 2017. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen / Fairfax Photos

In May 2017 a convention of First Nations People from across the continent, including elders, academics, delegates and activists, gathered at Yulara in the Northern Territory and adopted the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Statement from the Heart calls for

a 'First Nations Voice' to parliament to be enshrined in the Constitution; and for the establishment of a Makarrata (or peace making) Commission to facilitate a process of treaty-making between State and Commonwealth governments and the First Nations and truth-telling about their history.

The statement has been endorsed by the Referendum Council, the New South Wales Bar Association, the Law Council of Australia and the Australian Bar Association.

On 5 November 2018, Andrew Smith introduced a session in the Bar Association Common Room, hosted by the First Nations Committee, where members heard about the statement and were encouraged to sign it to register their support.

Thomas Mayor, who is a custodian of the Statement, spoke passionately and movingly of his travels to communities around Australia with a canvas inscribed with the statement. He was followed by the Honourable Justice Michael Slattery, Chris Ronalds AO SC, Tony McAvoy SC and Arthur Moses SC.

The core proposal for a First Nations voice to parliament may have been rejected by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, but the statement continues to gather significant support. Information, including the text of the statement, is available at www.ivoicetuluru.org.

As the statement concludes:

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.