

A First Peoples Heart



VISION FOR A JUST AUSTRALIA

FIRST PEOPLES ARE THE MOST INCARCERATED POPULATION GLOBALLY
Making up 30% of the adult prison population



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY

Our vision

“ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, nurtured and sustained by God before invasion, are celebrated at the very heart of what it means to be Australian. First Peoples’ sovereignty is affirmed, First Peoples have a voice in the decision making of our country and are living out their right to self-determination.

As First and Second Peoples, we heal together. ”

Our Key Asks

Recognise the Uluru Statement from the Heart as a living document, and seek to embody Voice, Treaty and Truth at Federal and State levels.

Establish community led bodies for treaty making at State and Federal levels.
Establish community led bodies for truth-telling across all jurisdictions.

Provide sufficient funding to achieve the Closing the Gap targets, prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations to deliver services wherever possible. Raise the age of criminal Responsibility to 14 years of age across all jurisdictions.

That all Governments redouble their efforts to address Target 13 in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which is to reduce the rate of all forms of family violence against First Nations women and children by at least 50% by 2031.



State of the Nation

In October 2023, a referendum to establish a federal Voice to Parliament failed, with 60% of Australians voting against it. This has sparked renewed calls for allyship between First and Second Peoples. Despite the Uluru Statement from the Heart advocating for self-determination, truth, and justice, its goals remain unfulfilled.

First Peoples face systemic disadvantages, with lower life expectancy and poorer health, education, and employment outcomes.

Family violence disproportionately affects First Peoples, with 67% of those harmed reporting an intimate partner or family member as the perpetrator. Additionally, 72% of assault hospitalisations among First Peoples are due to family violence.

Australia's First Peoples are the most incarcerated population globally, making up over 30% of the adult prison population. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth account for 60% of detained youth, despite being only 6.6% of their age group. The trauma of the Stolen Generations persists, with survivors overrepresented in reports of institutional abuse.

Questions to ask

- Does your party/organisation have a Reconciliation Action Plan? What are its key points?
- Have you read the Uluru Statement? How do you feel about Treaty, Treaties, and truth-telling?
- How should we address First Peoples' disadvantage in life expectancy, health, and education?
- How should we reduce First Peoples' incarceration rates? Do you support raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14?

VISION
FOR A JUST
AUSTRALIA