



15th UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

04 July 2022

Australian Statement

Item 3: Study on Treaties, Agreements and other Constructive Arrangements between Indigenous Peoples and states

Australia commends the work of the Expert Mechanism and welcomes the opportunity to further contribute to the study on Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between Indigenous peoples and States. Australia would also like to reaffirm its support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Australia is committed to implementing the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, including holding a referendum to enshrine a First Nations Voice in the Constitution, and establishing the Makarrata Commission to oversee a national process of treaty and truth-telling. The Government is committed to holding a referendum in the current term of Government, subject to discussions with First Nations leaders on the timing and referendum question.

A First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution will give First Nations people in Australia agency to help inform decisions that impact their lives. It will be a Voice for First Nations people, run by First Nations people.

In July 2020, a National Agreement on Closing the Gap was agreed between the Australian Government, jurisdictional governments, the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations and the Australian Local Government Association.

All Australian governments acknowledge that shared decision-making, ownership and accountability are essential to Closing the Gap in life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This shift acknowledges that to close the gap, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must determine, drive and own the desired outcomes, alongside all governments.