



# INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

STATEMENT FROM OUR SPRINGS MEDICAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Springs Medical affirms its support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the proposed constitutional reform to establish an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart encourages a stronger voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, who are the best placed to make decisions about what is important to them. The Voice to Parliament process also provides important acknowledgement of the status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of these lands and waters.

As a rural healthcare provider, Springs Medical is committed to providing an environment free from racism and discrimination. We believe that First Nations peoples have a right to participate in decision making that affects them and that this is fundamental to achieving better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**We believe the recommendations in the Uluru statement are a way to make real progress to close the gap in health inequality and strongly support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership of this process.**

While we acknowledge that there will be a diversity of opinions among the Australian community about the current referendum proposal, we encourage all members of our community to support this change. Different views should be respected and we should be respectful in this debate.

**“Without recognition, there cannot be self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Health outcomes are inextricably linked to self-determination. There is overwhelming evidence to support improvement in health outcomes when Indigenous peoples take greater control over their health”**

Dr Anita Watts, General Practitioner and Council Member RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

#UluruStatement #VoiceTreatyTruth