

MEDIA RELEASE

Board - Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre

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EMPOWERING CHANGE: SUPPORTING THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

The Board of Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre (BWFC), a community-run, for-purpose early childhood education and care centre in Port Melbourne, unanimously voted to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart at a Board meeting earlier this year.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart stands as a profound testament to the aspirations, resilience, and unity of First Nations peoples across Australia. Recognising the historical significance of this invitation to change, the BWFC's Board convened on 20 March 2023 to unanimously declare its support for the statement and its transformative call to action.

The Uluru Statement champions the establishment of a constitutionally enshrined 'Voice to Parliament,' ensuring that the wisdom and perspectives of First Nations communities are formally and meaningfully integrated into the nation's democratic fabric. The Statement also advocates for the creation of Makarrata, a pivotal body that will facilitate agreement-making and truth-telling, crucial elements on the path towards a lasting reconciliation and understanding with our First Nation's People.

The Board drafted its own statement detailing its rationale for support and invitation to community members to educate themselves on this important issue. The draft statement was approved by the Board before being shared with Reconciliation Victoria whose guidance was sought to ensure it struck the appropriate level of cultural respect, safety and support.

The finalised version of our statement of support can be found on our [website here](#).

"At Bubup Womindjeka, our purpose to provide an integrated family-focused community centre, where all children and educators have equitable opportunities to reach their full potential is in cadence with the spirit and intent of the Uluru Statement from the Heart," Gilda Howard, President of the BWFC stated.

"We took this step because we believe The Uluru Statement from The Heart aligns with our existing vision and commitment to achieving Reconciliation with our First Nations people, as well as with our values of Integrity, Inclusion and Collaboration" Adrian Naudi, Vice President of BWFC said.

"The Uluru Statement from the Heart not only harmonises with our focus on inclusivity for all children, it also contributes to a more just society. It is in this spirit that we encourage all members of our community to thoughtfully and respectfully educate themselves and others about this important issue" Gilda concluded.

As the referendum approaches, BWFC is committed to playing its part in advocating across the sector on why support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart is in true alignment with its core commitment to the education and care of all children.

To learn about BWFC's vision and commitment to reconciliation, please visit their [website here](#).

Additional Attributable Quotes

"Our commitment to the First Nations voice to parliament aligns with our purpose of providing quality early childhood education. The Uluru Statement from the Heart echoes our dedication to inclusive learning environments for every child."

"Endorsing the Uluru Statement is a step towards truly inclusive early education. We stand with First Nations communities for a brighter future where every child's voice is heard."

"A whole-of-sector commitment to quality early education for all children is key. Supporting the First Nations' voice to parliament, as advocated in the Uluru Statement, reflects our commitment to collaborative learning and holistic growth."

"The Uluru Statement is indeed a call for equitable education. We're not just endorsing it; we reaffirm our commitment to continuing to actively foster understanding and embrace a culture of change in our early childhood education community."

"The Uluru Statement resonates deeply with our commitment to providing an excellent education and care experience for all children founded on integrity, collaboration and inclusion. By standing alongside our Aboriginal Brothers and Sisters at this pivotal time in our Nation's story, we're forging a path to a more informed, compassionate, and harmonious society: setting an example for today's children, tomorrow's leaders."