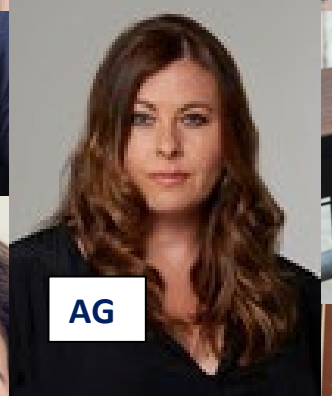
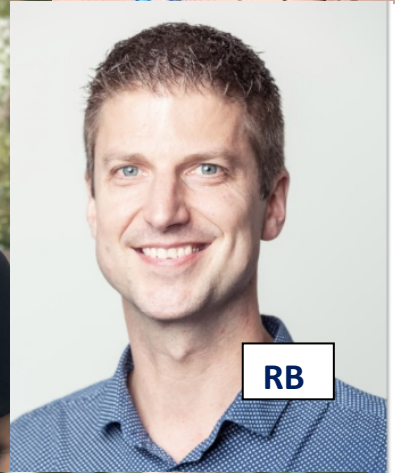


AAAH BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020 ENDORSEMENT OF
THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART



Angela Grant

I am proud to be a Board Member for the AAAH, an Association that prides itself on the promotion of the health and wellbeing of ALL young Australians. Because of this, I am proud to endorse the *Uluru Statement of the Heart*—a statement that is powerful, uniting and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional and ongoing Owners and Custodians of the lands in which we live today. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must not only be counted and heard, but fully embraced, as we strive to improve the health of young people across Australia.

David Perez

I am really proud, as a Director of AAAH to have the Uluru Statement from the Heart endorsed by our Association. We recognise that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands.

As someone that left his land and migrated to Australia with my parents when I was 12, I still retain a strong sense of place, of my birthplace, to the land, the clay I was formed from and to my ancestral knowledge. The stories that make up the past of my people are an important part of what makes me who I am today. It would be a crime for anyone to try to erase that history, as in doing so they would be erasing who I am.

With that in mind, I recognise the incredibly deep and strong culture and wisdom that more than 60,000 years bring and I acknowledge that I stand on Aboriginal land and personally endorse and support the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I also recognise that we must be prepared ensure that the young people of this land can hear the truth with a caring and open heart.

Ella Cehun

As a young person and a director of the Board of AAAH, I am proud to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart. It brings me hope for the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in Australia, and for all young people as we are stronger together. I believe it is essential to have and listen to the voice of our First Nations people and that we can only benefit by becoming a more equitable and inclusive country.

Geraldine Dyer

It is an honour to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart, alongside my fellow board directors of the Australian Association for Adolescent Health. AAAH has shown a strong commitment to not only improving the health trajectory of Australia's First Nations young People, but to honour and respect the values, beliefs and connection to land that is innate in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. I am hopeful for a future where all Australians can proudly stand together and honour the spiritual connection and ownership that Australia's First Nations People have over our shared great land. The acceptance and practical application of the Uluru Statement from the heart, has the potential to bring a nation together, where all people can proudly stand side by side without inequities.

Jacqui Hendriks

As an AAAH Board Member and descendant of First Nations people from the Whadjuk Region of Western Australia, I am incredibly proud to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Any effort to promote the health and wellbeing of adolescents and young adults in Australia, must include genuine participation and engagement with them. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, it is even more critical that their voices and incredible stories are heard.

Jonathan Kirkham

As a director on the board for the AAAH, I endorse the Uluru Statement. I endorse it because it's not only the board's responsibility, but the responsibility of all Australians to ensure the health and wellbeing of all Indigenous Australians and having a representative body that gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples a say in matters that affect them is key to achieving this. As part of this, young people should be engaged as much as possible as they are our future leaders.

Kate Thompson

As a proud, young Gurang Gurang woman and a director of the Board of AAAH I am pleased to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I truly believe the AAAH are taking the necessary steps to ensure equity and justice for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people through advocacy, education, yarning, listening, inclusion and creating a space for empowerment of young people.

Marc Zen

It brings me great joy to, together with the other AAAH Board Directors, endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart. It is essential that the Voice of First Nations People be enshrined in the Constitution; particularly as we in the health sector continue our work with and for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards closing the gap.

I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the AAAH in advocating for policy change that will enable our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to realise self-determination and the ability to culturally thrive as I've had the privilege to do with my own heritage.

Melissa Kang

As one of the directors of the Board of AAAH I am really proud to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart. For our association to truly support the health and wellbeing of all young people we have to commit to equity and justice, and this has to start with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. I hope that we are taking steps towards that in different ways, such as through our conferences and our latest Position Paper on the Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. At a personal level, I am the child of 4th generation migrants from two very different regions of the world. Neither of my parents had any knowledge of their ancestors' homelands. I feel that those who have been living on this land for tens of thousands of years have so much wisdom to share with us, and with our young people.

Rohan Borschmann

Endorsing the Uluru Statement From The Heart is an important step towards Closing The Gap of Indigenous disadvantage in Australia, and this includes the often profound marginalisation experienced by young Indigenous people on a daily basis. As a Board Director of the Australian Association for Adolescent Health, I was extremely proud to endorse the Statement. One particular goal that my work aims to achieve is reversing the extreme over-representation of young Indigenous people who are in youth detention - at the time of writing, they are over-represented by a factor of 28, which is nothing short of a national embarrassment.

Simon Denny

As a recent director on the AAAH board I endorse the Uluru Statement From The Heart wholeheartedly. The statement speaks truth and of aspiration for an equitable future for First Nations people and their young people enshrined in the constitution.