



Australian Community
Futures Planning
Newsletter No. 13

We have it in our power to create the world anew

**ACFP supports constitutional recognition of Indigenous
Australians in the form of a Voice.**

Find out why in this Special ACFP Newsletter.



acfp says Yes!

Indigenous Australians must have a say in
decisions that affect them.
There is no justice without a Voice to Parliament
for First Nations in the Constitution.



ACFP was set up in March 2020.

Our purpose is to give Australians an efficient means by which they can increase their shares of power and influence in their democracy, take more control of their future, and build the sort of country they want to leave to future generations.

**Find us and become involved
at www.austcfp.com.au**

September 2023

What's been happening at ACFP?

- **ACFP has been active in support of an Indigenous Voice in the Constitution.**
- **ACFP Founder Bronwyn Kelly's new book, *The People's Constitution*, is attracting attention and praise.**
- **We're working with politicians and the media to promote the Voice and human rights for all Australians.**

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ACFP active in support of an Indigenous Voice

The Voice will vastly benefit ALL Australians.

ACFP's Founder Bronwyn Kelly's new book, [*The People's Constitution*](#) makes a compelling case for constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians in the form of a Voice. She shows why recognition in the form of a Voice for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders is crucial not just for their future but for all our futures.

“*Structured as reasonably as the call for an Indigenous Voice is, there is nothing that could justify a refusal to enshrine such a Voice in our Constitution. It is the minimum of the justice that is required. But the whole Australian nation would also be doing itself a huge favour by enshrining the Indigenous Voice. It would be giving itself the chance to start again, this time establishing a nation without the faults of its original founding. ... More than a symbolic recognition and the possibility of amends, the Indigenous Voice offers non-Indigenes a model for enshrining a voice of their own, a voice that can give them greater control over their destiny and enable all their children to flourish, a power of self-determination that can be shared in such a way as to enable us to establish the nation we all want, rather than the one that has been foisted on us all by its encoding in the current Constitution.*

Introduction to *The People's Constitution* ”

You can find more about the multiple ways in which an Indigenous Voice will benefit all Australians

in [*The People's Constitution: the path to empowerment of Australians in a 21st century democracy*](#). Or listen to a complete reading of [*The People's Constitution*](#) in twice-weekly instalments on [The Australia Together Podcast](#).

Click [here](#) to listen to the full audio book of **THE PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTION** on the *Australia Together Podcast*



Australia Together Podcast



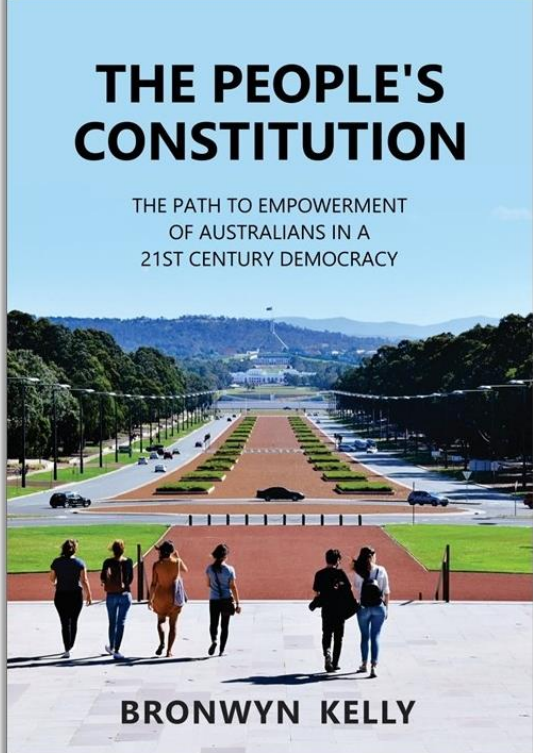
acfp Australian Community Futures Planning
On [substack at bronwynkelly.substack.com](#)

How will an Indigenous Voice benefit all Australians?

Find out in [*The People's Constitution*](#).

THE PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTION

THE PATH TO EMPOWERMENT OF AUSTRALIANS IN A 21ST CENTURY DEMOCRACY



BRONWYN KELLY

You can also listen to an [interview with Bronwyn Kelly about *The People's Constitution* on Northern Beaches Radio](#). The Indigenous Voice shows a path to empowerment of all Australians.

Voice shows path to empowerment of Australians

Michael Lester interviews ACFP's Founder, Bronwyn Kelly



radio northern beaches
88.7 fm 90.3

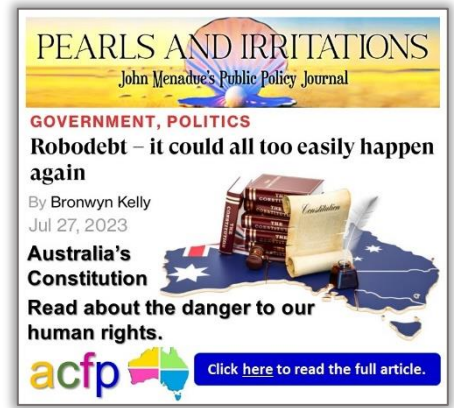


acfp [Click here for the full interview.](#)

ACFP's submission to the parliamentary inquiry into Human Rights

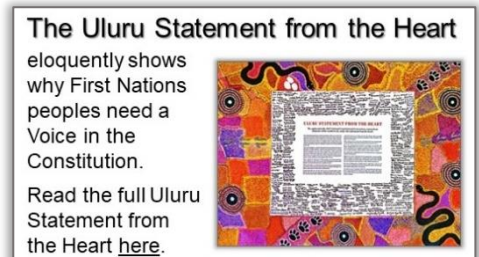
ACFP has made a major submission to this Inquiry arguing that legislation to protect human rights is long overdue in Australia but that full security of rights cannot be achieved unless human rights are enshrined in the Constitution. Legislation is not enough to protect Australians from government abuse. [Read the full submission here](#) or read our [Substack article summarising ACFP's submission](#).

Bronwyn Kelly has also published several articles on why constitutional enshrinement of all human rights vested in international law is necessary. Australians may assume they have all the human rights they need but these rights are not available to them in domestic law. Unless we can enshrine rights **securely** – and that can only be done in the Constitution, not in mere legislation – we will be unable to protect current and future generations from the ravages of war and climate change. View the [latest articles by Bronwyn Kelly here in Pearls and Irritations](#).



Why should Indigenous peoples have a Voice of their own in the Constitution?

With four weeks to go before Australians must vote on whether they wish to amend the Constitution to enshrine a Voice for First Nations people, many Australians will be asking themselves why they should say Yes. ACFP would suggest that in asking to be recognised in the Constitution in the form of a Voice, First Nations people are respectfully asking for nothing more than all Australians would want – a right to provide advice to those they elect about decisions that affect them.



As it is currently worded, however, no Australian has that right in the Constitution. We may think we have a voice because we can vote in elections. But votes do not equate to a voice, as First Nations people know. They have the vote but still they suffer more than any other group of Australians. Their vote has not protected them. Their children are still being alienated from their families at unprecedented rates and they languish in detention in obscene numbers. In the Uluru Statement from the Heart they call this “the torment of their powerlessness”.

Indigenous Australians know better than non-Indigenes that they need a type of voice that is more specific and influential than a vote, one that can be better understood by governments. For them, this is a matter of life and death. ACFP suggests that this sheds light on the need to say Yes.

Say Yes in the upcoming referendum and we can create a model which all Australians can use to establish a voice of their own. Say No and we may well ruin the chances of all Australians ever having a say in their future. For all our sakes, ACFP hopes Australians will find it in their hearts to accept the request from First Nations people to join with them in a movement of all Australians for a better future. Then we can begin taking more steps to empower all Australians with a more influential say in decisions that affect them. Everyone should have the right to a Voice.