

To whom it may concern. Even though I am not of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander decent I believe that it is most important that Australia's First People are recognised in our country's constitution. Our First People have lived in these lands for at least 60000 years. We must acknowledge and recognise this fact so that we can all move forward together. By recognising our First People in the Constitution we now have a chance to right the inequalities of the past and recognise the valuable contribution Australia's First People have made to this country's culture and history over the past 60000 years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have contributed so much already to this country how can we deny them the right of recognition as Australia's First People within the Constitution?

In modern day Australia our First People have fought with distinction in active military service, trained as lawyers, doctors, scientists , nurses, teachers and police personnel. Represented Australia at the highest levels in sports such as track and field , netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union and cricket etc. Our First People are achieving great things in the political arena too with representation in Local Council and State and Federal Parliaments. But still our First People are not recognised in the Constitution.

By recognising Australia's First People in the Constitution we can ensure that we treat our First People more fairly and respectfully than we have done in the past. We now have a wonderful opportunity to improve our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that we can find the right solutions for Australia's First People. In working together, we can make this an even greater and more harmonious country!

Respectfully Miss Jane West.