

BCH POSITION STATEMENT

The Voice

August 2023 - Board of Directors

Ballarat Community Health (BCH) supports Voice, Treaty and Truth, called for in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, as important first steps in Australia's reconciliation journey towards a brighter, more equitable future.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart was developed with First Nations peoples from across the nation and invites every person to "walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future."

At the core of BCH's purpose, values and Reconciliation Action Plan is a commitment to have the voices of First Nations communities heard, shared and strengthened.

Enshrining a First Nations Voice to Parliament within our Constitution provides a firm and hopeful foundation, enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have a direct say in matters that affect them. For BCH, this aligns with our objectives to address the social determinants of health and improve wellbeing.

BCH believes that reconciliation is founded on respectful relationships. We are an organisation which values diversity and, as such, we respect the right of all people to speak freely and respectfully about their views on The Voice. It is our hope that every Australian will engage thoughtfully with this opportunity in our nation's history and participate in the referendum.



Ballarat Community Health operates on the lands of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Djab Wurrung, Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Peoples. We pay our respect to the Traditional Owners of these lands and the Elders of these communities both past and present.