

Concerned Catholics Tasmania Inc.

10 February 2023

Most Reverend Archbishop Julian Porteous
Catholic Archdiocesan Centre
Tower Road
Newtown 7008
julian.porteous@aohtas.org.au

Dear Archbishop Julian

Uluru Statement from the Heart and Upcoming Referendum

We hope and pray that you are making a speedy recovery from your recent surgery and that you are recuperating well. As a precaution, a copy of this letter has been sent to the Vicar General.

Concerned Catholics Tasmania continues to consider how best the conversations and outcomes of the second and final Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council might be conveyed to Christ's faithful and others here in Tasmania.

In particular, given the impending referendum through which it is proposed to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a Voice to our national Parliament and the Australian government, and given the Fifth Plenary Council's intention to:

“commit(ing) to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in continuing to work towards recognition, reconciliation and justice” and “endorses(ing) the Uluru Statement from the Heart and encourages engagement with processes for implementing the statement, including local, regional, and national truth-telling efforts,”

we are hopeful that there will be a formative message from our Church leadership encouraging the faithful to give serious consideration to supporting the referendum proposal as a matter of justice.

We would be grateful if you would share with us the archdiocesan plans to address the Plenary commitments made by you and your fellow bishops, as well as the matter of the upcoming referendum. There does not seem to have been anything related to these commitments published in the Catholic Standard, the official mouthpiece of the Archdiocese.

Unless you request otherwise, this letter may be published on our website fourteen days from the date of this letter.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Kim Chen

Chair - Concerned Catholics Tasmania