

Concerned Catholics Tasmania Inc.

26 July 2023

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

Dear Archbishop Julian

Supporting the faithful in discernment about the Voice Referendum

Thank you for your response of 20 July to our letter in which we sought information about the proposed archdiocesan response to the formation needs of the faithful in the matter of the upcoming referendum.

The Concerned Catholics Tasmania (CCT) Committee met on Monday evening and members shared their disappointment in your response.

In your response, you included the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) Statement of May 11 on this matter. A search of our archdiocesan website, and *The Catholic Standard* published since May 11, did not find any reference to this important guiding document. We are not sure how the ACBC Statement can “encourage everyone to read and discuss the Uluru Statement” when the ACBC statement of encouragement has not been promulgated in our archdiocese.

The Statement concludes:

In particular, we recommend that Catholic parishes, schools and agencies arrange opportunities for people to come together to read and discuss the Uluru Statement.

CCT is unaware of any initiatives planned by our archdiocese, and, indeed, whether “parishes, school and agencies” have been alerted to this recommendation of the ACBC.

In light of the above, CCT is planning ways in which it will provide opportunities for people to gather, using the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and the 2023-2024 ACBC Social Justice Statement *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, as stimuli for helping people discern their personal position on the Voice.

We would be grateful if, when details are finalised, these events can be promoted through archdiocesan channels.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



Susan Chen

Chair - Concerned Catholics Tasmania