

# Reconciliation Advocacy Statement

1. EFP support the Uluru Statement from the heart, and enshrining a First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution, the establishment of the Makarrata Commission and a process of truth-telling about Australia's history and colonisation<sup>1</sup>.
2. EFP are deeply concerned about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders rate of incarceration, as the most incarcerated group in the world. Indigenous deaths in custody are devastating. It is over thirty years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC)<sup>2</sup> and findings from a 2018 Government Review found of the 339 recommendations made, 64% have been implemented, the rest partially implemented and 6% not implemented and the lowest proportion of fully implemented recommendations relates to self- determination, non-custodial approaches, and cycle of offending. We support activities that challenge and change the systems and actions that lead to the unacceptably high level of incarceration and deaths in custody<sup>3</sup>, especially enabling self determination.
3. EFP oppose the age of incarceration being ten years. In line with UN Human Rights recommendations we believe the age should be raised to 14. Whilst this age applies to all, we believe it is more greatly felt by Indigenous people and data supports that Indigenous children represent a disproportionate number of incarcerated children<sup>4</sup>.
4. EFP are deeply concerned that the rate of separation of Indigenous children from their families continues to grow, with Indigenous children 10.6 time more likely to be removed from their families than non-Indigenous children<sup>5</sup>. We support approaches and processes that will reduce this rate.
5. EFP are deeply concerned about mental health and suicide rates amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and support evidence based, Aboriginal view, best practice activities proven to reduce these rates<sup>6,7</sup>.
6. EFP recognise truth-telling about Australia's history and colonisation is critical. Education from and engagement with truth-telling is an important process to support<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ulurustatement.org>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.niaa.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/rciadic-review-report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.alrc.gov.au/publication/pathways-to-justice-inquiry-into-the-incarceration-rate-of-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-alrc-report-133/executive-summary-15/disproportionate-incarceration-rate/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.raisetheage.org.au/about>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.snaicc.org.au/media-release-removal-of-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-continues-12-years-after-the-apology/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.aihw.gov.au/suicide-self-harm-monitoring/data/populations-age-groups/suicide-indigenous-australians>

<sup>7</sup> <https://indigenousx.com.au/enough-lip-service-where-is-the-accountability/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/introduction.php>