The Hon Scott Morrison

Prime Minister

Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

9 June 2020

Dear Mr Morrison,

I write as a concerned citizen about the situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people. The events that have occurred in the US and here during Reconciliation Week and subsequently are disturbing. You recently stated that Australia is not like the United States in the rioting that has happened there.. I tend to agree and of course I do not support violence in any form. Hoever I recall a quote from Dr Martin Luther King Jnr.  
 *Riots occur when people feel they are not heard*

We do have a serious problem between black and white Australians that has endured since colonial times when Indigenous people were dispossessed of their lands and treated shamefully as a result. They continue to suffer unacceptable levels of disadvantage in health, education, lifespan and housing.

In particular I am dismayed by three events that happened over the past weeks that have received little or no serious response from you and the Government:

* The destruction of the 46,000 year old sacred site of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama people at Juugan Gorge WA by the mining company Rio Tinto.
* The abuse by police of a young Aboriginal teenager in Surry Hills NSW when he was kicked face-down on the ground while handcuffed.
* The disgraceful continuing incarceration of Aboriginal people and the 432 deaths in custody since the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody.

There is one major way that you could address these endemic problems and bring about a healing transformation in our relationship with the First People of our country. It is to accept the Uluru Statement From the Heart and have it enshrined in our Constitution. This beautiful and positive statement was given to all Australians to allow the voices of Aboriginal People to be heard in matters that they know more than anyone are for their benefit. Simply letting the model that is being developed to go to Parliament only is not enough. We have seen so many Aboriginal Organisations and programmes done away with at the whim of successive Governments.

Prime Minister your legacy as the Leader who finally gave justice to the First Peoples of our nation would be assured if you led a bi-partisan campaign to achieve this. I certainly would celebrate such a national achievement.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Hinchey