

Hello,

I have recently attended an event hosted by the Commissioner for Children and Young People, and was introduced to this remarkable proposal.

I am a Nimanburr woman from the Kimberley region with ties to Djugun/Jukun and Bardi countries, and can say I am extremely excited about the introduction and intentions behind this proposal.

What do you think of the Government's proposal?

I think this is a step in the right direction, the treaty direction. We have been in such need of an organisation that make sure the government is listening properly and is accountable to all Aboriginal people across WA. The fact that the organisation would build strong relationships with communities in all regions, and tell the government about their views and priorities is an important contribution to the advancement of Aboriginal people being self-determining.

What should the name of the organisation be?

I really like the proposal of First Nations Voice, as it includes the diversity in language that I think reflects our own. The use of Aboriginal/Indigenous is a colonial term that seeks to homogenise First Nations people, so I would be extremely cautious about using that type of language. Language is powerful; it has the ability to convey meaning and enforce power. By using First Nations, we acknowledge the presence of Nations, and the fact that we live in a Nation made up of other Nations, before colonisation and indeed after it.

How should Aboriginal people be involved in choosing the right person?

I would be interested in seeing a completely transparent appointment process that provides opportunity and encouragement of community to submit any significant concerns surrounding a potential appointment, for example, a significant concern would be complaints around integrity of character, sexual or workplace harassment, misappropriation of funds etc. Also having a large and diverse selection panel across industry and experience would be something to consider.

On a personal note, I cannot wait to see this move forward and the recruitment to start for team members to be a part of this historical organisation in WA.