

# MINUTES

## Formal Session 8: Sunday 9 July at 11.15am AEST

### YM23.42: Welcome and Opening Worship

Bruce Henry shared from Aboriginal writer and senior elder Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann:

Deep Listening - Dadirri

Dadirri is inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness. Dadirri recognises the deep spring that is inside us. We call on it and it calls to us. This is the gift that Australia is thirsting for. It is something like what you call 'contemplation'.

When I experience dadirri, I am made whole again. I can sit on the riverbank or walk through the trees; even if someone close to me has passed away, I can find my peace in this silent awareness. There is no need of words. A big part of dadirri is listening.

In our Aboriginal way, we learnt to listen from our earliest days. We could not live good and useful lives unless we listened. This was the normal way for us to learn – not by asking questions. We learnt by watching and listening, waiting and then acting.

My people are not threatened by silence. They are completely at home in it. They have lived for thousands of years with Nature's quietness. My people today, recognise and experience in this quietness, the great Life-Giving Spirit, the Father of us all.

From Deep listening (dadirri) - *Creative Spirits* website

### YM23.43: AYM Statement about the Statement from the Heart and the Voice to Parliament

Yearly Meeting receives and accepts the following Statement from the First Nations Concerns Committee about support for the Statement from the Heart and for the Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution.

Our Quaker testimonies call us to be in right relationship with all peoples and to support social justice systems where people know their concerns are being heard and taken into account.

In the Statement from the Heart, First Peoples speak of the torment of their powerlessness and seek constitutional reforms to empower their people and to take a rightful place in their own country. They call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution and seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about their history. They seek to be heard.

First Peoples conclude the Statement from the Heart with an invitation to walk with them in a movement of the Australian people for a better future for all living in this vast country now called Australia. Australian Quakers accept this invitation with gratitude.

Australian Quakers consider it is essential that First Peoples have an effective say in laws and policies that affect them. We support the full implementation of the Statement from the Heart and we hold that support for the Yes vote for the Voice is a pivotal step toward the Statement's full implementation.

Full implementation of the Statement from the Heart will provide the Australian people with an effective mechanism to finally and fully confront the truth of our past and our present and to make way for abiding justice, healing, recovery and repair for Original Australians, and rightful relationships between us all.

We encourage Friends to take appropriate action on the basis of this Statement.

### **YM23.44 Final reading and closing worship**

The Presiding Clerk thanked all those who contributed to the organisation of Yearly Meeting.

In the life of the Quaker meeting there is a tradition of equality and respect for individuals that I have found to be of pure gold in value ...

Jean Brown 1984, Faith and Practice, 2.75

The Session closed with silent worship.