



The Uluru Bark Petition

MEDIA RELEASE

Uluru Bark Petition Indigenous Leaders Thank Margaret Court for Supporting Traditional Aboriginal Marriage

Indigenous leaders behind the Uluru Bark Petition are very upset by the vicious attacks on Pastor Margaret Court in her stand for the traditional Aboriginal view on marriage. Alan Joyce, CEO of Qantas is in partnership with Emirates. The Emirates airline is owned by the government of the Arab Emirates, a Muslim country where homosexuality is illegal and punishable by a prison sentence.

Aboriginal Elder from Northern Territory, Maratja Dhamarrandji, said, *"In August 2015 over 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including senior elders, travelled from various regions, including the Kimberleys, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and far north Queensland. They gathered at Parliament House to raise a united Indigenous voice on the proposal to introduce homosexual marriage here in Australia. That voice was presented to the Australian government on Thursday 13 August as a traditional petition named the **Uluru Bark Petition** and was written in Pitjantjatjara language and in English."*

Richard Evans, Aboriginal Elder from Western Australia, said, *"We are thankful for Margaret Court's support for marriage between a man and a woman because the heart of the Uluru Bark Petition states that marriage between man and woman is, and has always been, sacred to the oldest living culture on earth. The Uluru Bark Petition adds that fathers and mothers – who are deeply honoured in Aboriginal culture – also form the "foundation of our families, clans and systems, and pass down our teachings, our culture, our traditions, from generation to generation. Senator Eric Abetz and the then newly appointed Aboriginal Senator, Joanna Lindgren, officially received the Uluru Bark Petition from Aboriginal Elders on behalf of the Australian Senate, and they presented the Petition to the Prime Minister."*

Peter Walker, Aboriginal Elder from NSW said, *"I make this statement in support of Pastor Margaret Court, who has recently come under unfair attack from those who want to redefine marriage, over her comments regarding Alan Joyce, chief executive officer of Qantas. On April 1, 2013 Qantas formed a partnership with Emirates who are based in the United Arab Emirates. If Alan Joyce is so convicted about the need to promote homosexual marriage, why is he in partnership with a company controlled by a government who places homosexual people in goal? Why does Alan Joyce vilify all those who oppose his point of view here in Australia, but not say anything to the Dubai government which owns the airline he is in partnership with and whose strict code of Sharia Law prohibits homosexual acts and places in prison those who perform such acts?"*

Walker continued, *"I speak as an Australian Indigenous elder and one of the founders of the Uluru Bark Petition, and as an advocate for traditional marriage. The sacred and traditional union between man and woman is deeply part of our ancient and continuing culture across all of our communities. Our fathers and mothers provide the foundation for those communities. Marriage can only be between a man and a woman. The Aboriginal people of Australia strongly reject any attempt to redefine the institution of marriage, and in doing so, we honour the sanctity of both the tradition of marriage and the spiritual implication of this sacred union"*.

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Thanks to Joe Day, Tom Slokee and many others too numerous to name.

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