

# Why say yes?

**At a time in our nation a Voice for our mob is much needed  
"why say yes" is my take on the whole campaign - Alison Overeem**

My voice and my family's voice  
and our family matriarch's voice, Fanny  
Cochrane Smith,  
is still here, on the lands, on the sands, in  
the waterways,  
in the forever time and all days.

May all the voices be heard  
May all the voices be upheld and stirred  
weaving and unweaving across lutruwita  
weaving and unweaving across milaythina  
mana mapali (lots of country)  
Whispering in the pungkatina (bush)  
Flowing, growing and all knowing from  
the muka (water)

The voices of the Muwinina people  
Of all knowing and all being ancient  
wisdom and knowledge  
Heard  
Held  
Felt  
The broken  
The unspoken  
The silence  
The colonial violence

A yes vote is a yes to all the stories woven  
in every footprint of 65,000 plus years  
Of struggle survival resilience and tears

If we say no  
How will we as a nation grow?

We know in people's takila (heart) the  
call  
is these ancient storylines and songlines  
of woven voices to be held and nurtured

For recognition and a voice for self  
determination,  
this is what a yes is for this nation.

This is a yes from the heart  
To weave together a pathway for  
restorative justice,  
truth and treaty - to weave us all  
together - not divide or bring us apart

This is a call for a yes from your heart

To kani (say) Yes is the first step  
to footprints of justice that will give  
voices  
to the policies of a nation  
weaving the threads of first peoples  
self determination

May our hearts be woven in the yes for  
a healing of a nation  
It's time  
It's now  
It's yes  
I hear my old people  
I hear the voices  
We can together be the shared  
weaving voice of the tirrina (basket)  
of new hope  
Let's weave together our shared voice  
and story

*Alison Overeem*

Proud Smith from south east nations of  
lutruwita/Tasmania