

Review of: "The Uluru Statement from the Heart – A consideration from three perspectives"

Peter Choate¹

¹ Mount Royal University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an incredibly interesting paper. I, as a reviewer, am a white settler in Canada so I want to acknowledge my positionally in writing this review.

I like that this article acts as a continuance of an established conversation following on Turnbull & Barnard 2023. For the benefit of a broad audience, I might take a moment to describe what is included within occupational science. I, coming from social science, needed to take some moments to look that up so I better understood the context of the paper.

Another strength of the paper is, in essence, the call for Indigenous knowledge and connection to be essential to professions work with people as well as public policy. As the author notes, the shift matters. My struggle at times with the paper is a subtle (but I feel real) expectation about a level of knowledge for example, what is the background and context of the statement and how does it relate to our work with people etc. I was able to find the material but will readers be as motivated as I? Thus, I would like to suggest some more contextual material that increases comfort for readers.

There are some areas that I think might benefit from added material:

1. What was the essence of the prior article. This is introduced but not as strongly linked and explained as it might be for a reader not familiar with it.
2. Help us to understand why the Wilcock work is important - as I read it I found myself floundering with the importance of this work relative to this paper.
3. The Uluru statement appears to be about to go to a vote - should the paper await those results as it might have a powerful impact - what happens if it passes; only barely passes suggesting a highly divided electorate; what if there is a very low turnout; what happens if it fails.

There is also the very interesting conundrum that First Nations rights are, in essence, going to a vote and being decided upon by the colonial population.

I apologize for the delay in my review. I read the paper 5 times. It became clear for me that the barrier was the assumptions that the reader has a base of knowledge about Uluru, First Nations issues of Australia - the paper however has potential to be quite relevant to those of us trying to look at First Nations issues from varying geo political positions and learning from how the issues are evolving. This is crucial learning.

I hope these comments are useful.

