

MEDIA RELEASE

BMS Australia supports Uluru Statement from the Heart

(MELBOURNE, Australia - 2 May 2023) -- Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) Australia formally supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart as a further extension of their commitment to reconciliation in Australia.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation to the Australian people from First Nations Australians. It asks Australians to walk together to build a better future by establishing a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution, and the establishment of the Makarrata Commission for the purpose of treaty making and truth-telling.¹

Bristol Myers Squibb Australia's Managing Director, Leah Goodman, said "We are firmly committed to reconciliation. At its core, reconciliation is about respectful listening, deepening relationships, and connections. The Uluru Statement from the Heart is the largest consensus of First Nations peoples proposing substantive recognition and reform in our history.

"We walk alongside First Nations voices and support their calls for action on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We hear their calls for a better future. We believe there needs to be a better future. Australia's First Nations people's experience significant inequalities compared to non-indigenous Australians, including high rates of chronic heart disease, high rates of infant mortality and low rates of life expectancy.

"As a contributor to this country's healthcare system, we have a responsibility to understand and respond to the unique cultural and healthcare needs of First Nations peoples. The Uluru Statement from the Heart will be a vehicle for Closing the Gap, ensuring First Nations peoples have a say in policies affecting their communities. Self-determination is a guiding principle of the Statement, and self-determination in healthcare policy is essential in addressing structural inequalities, "said Leah Goodman.

BMS Australia has delivered on the first stage of their Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) - *Reflect* - and has started designing their first *Innovate* RAP, launching later this year.

"Our RAP vision is that Australia's First Peoples attain the same level of health care and health outcomes as other Australians. This will contribute to reducing the devastating health gap between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, "said Leah Goodman.

Bristol Myers Squibb Australia joins many organisations, accepting that the Uluru Statement from the Heart paves the way forward for all Australians to build a more reconciled country.

"We support a reconciled Australia. We are committed to learning more about Uluru Statement from the Heart in the coming months. This is an important moment in Australia's history. To be a part of history, you have to be a part of the conversation, "said Leah Goodman.

About BMS Australia's RAP artwork

The artwork by national award-winning Wiradjuri Artist Lani Balzan, commissioned by Dreamtime Creative, represents Bristol Myers Squibb and their vision to transform patients' lives through life-saving medicines and innovative medicines. The hands holding Australia are the focus of the BMS brand and a universal expression of healing, giving and receiving. They represent the personal touch BMS bring to their work in every treatment they pioneer. The dot work inside Australia represents BMS belief in the power of science to address challenging diseases and the unprecedented scientific breakthroughs in advancing the treatment of disease. Their shared values of passion, innovation, urgency, accountability, inclusion and integrity are represented by the aqua coloured paths while the spectrum of colour from bottom left and top right represent science growing over time and providing better care for people.

About BMS

BMS is a global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases. For more information about Bristol Myers Squibb, visit us at [BMS.com](https://www.bms.com) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

References

1. Uluru Statement from the Heart 2023 <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/>

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