

Thank you for reaching out about this important issue.

Below are my responses to your questions. [Here](#) is our position statement on First Nations issues also.

1. What priority are First Nations justice issues for you?

I fully recognise that First Nations justice is critical to building a kinder society for the future. Whilst the Animal Justice Party's policy focus is on animals and nature, we understand that animal, humans and environmental issues are intersectional and will always advocate for First Nations justice.

2. How will you support First Nations people in the Western Metropolitan Region?

I will always defer to First Nations peoples' direct asks and priorities in any and all actions I take as a representative. Advocacy organisations like JAM! must be at the forefront of any political decision-making which affects First Nations people. I genuinely and wholeheartedly believe this is the only way to affect meaningful change to achieve First Nations justice.

I will also prioritise First Nations cultural knowledge in caring for Country throughout Victoria, particularly on the lands which comprise the Western Metropolitan Region. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have unique expertise in caring for our land and seas, and I will commit to listening, learning and prioritising this knowledge.

3. What do you believe are the priorities for First Nations people that need to be addressed and how will you do that?

The priorities for First Nations people are very clear. First Nations communities and advocacy organisations have been consistently asking for action from the government in various areas for years.

The Animal Justice Party supports truth-telling and treaty, and will vote in favour of one or more Makarrata Commissions. We wholeheartedly support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and believe it should be implemented in full. This includes a constitutionally-enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament.

We also support constitutional recognition for the First Peoples of Australia and will vote in favour of self-determination for First Peoples.

Finally, I will advocate for strengthened legal and cultural foundations for respectful relationships with First Nations peoples, and if elected will push the Victorian Government to invest more funding to meet targets and outcomes in key reform areas – including First Nations health, access and education.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you require any further information.

Kindly,

Meg Watkins (she/her)

Upper House Candidate, Western Metropolitan Region



**Animal
Justice
Party**

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Animal Justice Party Victoria

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