



**First Speech by Nartarsha Bamblett
Inaugural Meeting of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria**

10 December 2019

Thank you. My name is Nartarsha [Member spoke in language] Bamblett. [Member spoke in language] is my skin name, and I come from the descendant lines of Yorta Yorta Bangerang people, GunnaiKurnai, Warlpiri and Wurundjeri.

I stand in a room, with my feet bare on the floors that I have no connection to. But deep within the sands beneath and the lands, I can feel the roots of who it is I am connect deep within. I stand with my father supporting me, and I acknowledge the challenges of him, my mother and the future generations and the generations after me and the lines of where my father has come from, of Stolen Generation and the challenges that they face, the fears and uncertainty that we surround ourselves with today as Aboriginal people, men and women.

There is one thing that I am certain about, and that is who I truly am—who I am today and who I am tomorrow. I have been prepared for this moment my entire life. Before my being, before my creation, it was those ancestors and the creator spirit that have given me these powers that I stand in front of you and everyone beyond these walls today. I do not want you to just see and hear the words that I say but to feel the power within. The power of who we are is inside of us—our blood, our soul, our spirits, it is in our DNA, no matter what our face looks like on the outside but who it is we truly are from the roots.

I want us to know and remember we come from the lines of Aboriginal people that were prepared, that stayed prepared. We stand here together and will continue to be prepared for the challenges that face you and I. I stand with you. I stand in solidarity of who it is I am and what treaty represents as the tree. I am the tree of life that I have been given, and I will be the tree of life that I will give to future generations to come. Thank you.

