



"KEEP FIGHTING UNTIL JUSTICE PREVAILS"

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE WALKER FAMILY

We came this far to be Larrakia Country and therefore we thank the Larrakia custodians for welcoming us on their Country and for their support. It is a privilege to have had them with us from the start. We felt this trial was not fair. We wanted the jury to hear our stories and the truth of what happened on that irreversible day, 9 November 2019. Our intention was to have the trial in Mparntwe Alice Springs. But instead we had to have it here, a long way from home. We thought we could have a multicultural jury instead of just non-Indigenous people. But to our surprise there was not one Indigenous person on the panel. We felt left out. Are we not part of Australia? We feel neglected not to see Indigenous yapa on the jury. We want yapa on the jury so that we can express our culture and feelings based on the truth. They can tell other jury members how we see it. It's always kardiya people, seeing through their eyes but they need to accept our perspective too.

We would prefer for Zachary Rolfe to be locked up. We had a good prosecutor and good cross-examinations. The defence weren't happy about it. We weren't happy about the defence saying bad things about our young fella. Seeing the footage from that day being played in court brought back bad memories for us. If, in this case, the defendant was yapa, they would have immediately been locked up and remanded in custody until the court case.

Why is it different for Rolfe? How come he got bail to ACT for over two years? This whole scenario didn't happen in ACT. It happened in the NT. Kardiya justice system is really dishonest and it's about time for change. It helps kardiya avoid instead of making them accountable. Since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in 1991, the number of yapa deaths has escalated to over 500 and there has not been one instance of justice related to these matters over all these years. When has a police officer ever been charged and convicted of any wrong doing in relation to any deaths in custody for yapa? NEVER!



We would like to encourage all Indigenous people right across Australia to fight for justice and no matter what happens, never back down! Keep fighting until justice prevails. If you need to seek support from lawyers and kardiya people, make sure they listen to you so you can have the power to make decisions and lead the way in getting justice for your family. We need to seek justice on the right path, with the right people. We need our people to be decision makers for our community. The politicians that we vote for need to understand our law and culture as part of this justice process. They need to listen to grass roots yapa people.

The government people don't live out in our communities. We see what happens on the community daily. We don't want kardiya making decisions for us who have never been on our soil. We want any police that come into Yuendumu to collaborate with yapa Elders, Senior Knowledge holders, yapa police liaisons and the community to learn our law system and how it operates on our land. If there is any misunderstanding between police and the community, the police MUST seek advice from community Elders. We will get the job done in a correct manner. They need to listen to us. This way we will get better outcomes and better understanding.

We are the custodians of the land, of this continent called Australia. We need to be recognised as the true owners of the country and we need to have control of our lives. We do have our own yapa justice system. Our culture and law is based on controlled punishment if someone kills someone else. They get speared across both legs. If kardiya justice doesn't work, then Zachary Rolfe should face our yapa justice system. He committed this crime in our community, on our land. He should face our law next.