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Thomas Mayo

Assistant National Secretary of the MUA, and an award-winning author, essayist, orator and a signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart

Thomas Mayo is a Kaurareg Aboriginal and Kalkalgal, Erubamle Torres Strait Islander man based in Darwin on Larrakia Country. He is the Assistant National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia and has over 20 years' experience in leadership and advocacy.

A signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Thomas played a key role in its development in 2017 and has been a leading campaigner for a Voice to Parliament and a Makarrata Commission. He has served as a National Councillor for the MUA since 2013, and sits on the board of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. He also contributes to the First Nations Clean Energy Network and previously held positions with Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition and the Diversity Council of Australia.

Thomas is the author of seven books, including Finding the Heart of the Nation, Finding Our Heart, and Dear Son. His co-authored The Voice to Parliament Handbook (with Kerry O'Brien) was a bestseller and won multiple awards at the 2024 Australian Book Industry Awards.

He continues to be a passionate advocate for workers' rights and the recognition and justice of First Nations people.