

### 'What if I were Prime Minister'- AIEF

Good evening, My name is Zeljko William Matatia Warrior, and I have roots in the Torres Strait, and the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe in the NT, I am a boarder at St Augustine's College Cairns and when I am not boarding, I live with my Mum, Alexandra, in Woree.

If I were prime minister, I would try to counter the lack of Indigenous rights differently by not dividing First Nations people, as the Voice to Parliament referendum did. As an Indigenous person I was not in favour of the referendum because if successful it would have caused serious division among Indigenous Australians. A more helpful solution to improve their lives would be to strengthen legislation allowing for fair payment to First Nations people when their land is used for mining or other purposes.

I would also try to address the issue of asylum seekers with policies to enhance border security to fend off the influx of refugees. This would involve allocating significant resources to improve surveillance of Australia's borders by strengthening the Coast Guard. An influx of illegal immigrants, unfortunately, is not good for our economy as it contributes to our serious lack of housing as well as adding to the unemployment rate.

As PM I would give many benefits to people of all ages. I would keep free health care and encourage the states and territories to reduce the school week to four days so students could rest their minds and prepare for the following week and staff could prepare lessons with fewer time pressures. I would also give out Elders greater access to nutritious foods and proper hygiene.

The most important problem that I would try to tackle is climate change by protecting forests, planting trees, improving the levels of sustainable transport and establish a sea cleaning organisation.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts about ways to improve the lives of all Australians, but especially my Indigenous brothers and sisters.

