

What will the referendum question be?

Australians will be asked to write Yes or No to the following question that proposes to update our constitution.

"A Proposed Law:

to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Do you approve of this proposed alteration?"

What is the proposed change to the constitution?

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- i. there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
- ii. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- iii. the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.



**“Voting Yes
is a chance for
all Australians
to celebrate the
contribution
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait
Islander peoples
have made to our
country and to help
the next generation
chase their dreams.
Let’s grab this
moment with
both hands.”**

**Evonne Goolagong Cawley AC MBE,
former tennis world number one,
Wiradjuri woman.**

**Vote Yes on
14 October.**

**Together,
for a better
future.**



On Saturday 14 October, Australians will have the opportunity to vote Yes to recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the constitution through a Voice.

This referendum is a request directly from Indigenous Australians that has been decades in the making, and is supported by more than 80% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The Voice doesn't make new laws, control funding, or sit in the houses of Parliament – it simply provides informed advice to Government on issues that affect Indigenous Australians.



The referendum is about straightforward ideas and practical solutions:

- » **Recognising** and respecting 65,000 years of Indigenous culture for the first time in Australia's 122-year-old constitution.
- » **Listening** to a diverse group of Indigenous Australians about the policies and challenges that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- » **Protecting** the Voice from politics and bureaucrats by putting it in the constitution, giving it the security it needs to provide meaningful and honest advice.

When we listen to people about the decisions that affect them, we get better results. For the past 250 years, we haven't properly listened to the people who have been here for 65,000. **It's time we did.**

The Challenge

Australians recognise that Indigenous communities face serious and unique challenges.

There are real gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in life expectancy, infant mortality, health, housing, education and employment.

For far too long, politicians have made decisions for Indigenous communities rather than with them – leading to policies that communities knew would never work and meaning problems still haven't been fixed.

Indigenous Australians have made the reasonable request to be listened to about the issues important to their communities and given a chance to propose solutions. This is what the Voice will do.

The Voice is an idea formed over decades and agreed on in 2017 by more than 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders nominated by their communities.

When Governments listen to people, they get better results and make better decisions.

- » The Voice will be a committee made up of everyday Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country, with a diverse range of backgrounds, ages, and ideas.
- » The Voice will help local communities raise local challenges around health, education, housing and jobs.
- » The Government will still be responsible for all laws, programs and funding – the Parliament will still make all decisions.