

Easy English Fact Sheet The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice



Australians come from many places.

They have different backgrounds, beliefs and speak many languages.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have lived here for over 65,000 years.

Their special status as the First Peoples of Australia is not recognised in the Constitution.



The Constitution is an important paper that says what the laws are in Australia.

It does not recognise the rights, history, and relationship First Peoples have with Australia.



This year, we can change the Constitution by voting in a Referendum.

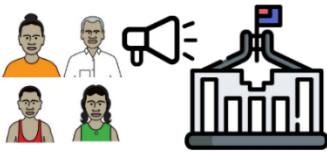
This way Australians can recognise First Peoples' rights. First Peoples will then be able to share their thoughts on laws and rules that affect all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

What is the Uluru Statement from the Heart?



The Uluru Statement from the Heart was made in 2017 by 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. In it, they asked for a Voice to Parliament.

What is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament?



The Voice to Parliament will create a special Advisory Group of First Peoples. This group would talk to the government about laws that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

What is a Referendum?



A Referendum asks a question or questions to people who can vote.

The question or questions can only be answered with “Yes” or “No”. This is the only way to change the laws in the Australian Constitution.

Who can vote in a Referendum?



You must be an Australian citizen and be older than 18. You need to be registered to vote. If you are registered to vote you must vote in a Referendum.

How do I vote in the Voice Referendum?



You go to a polling place and vote on a piece of paper called a ballot paper. This can be a school, community hall or a church. The government will choose a date for people to vote.

When will the Voice Referendum be held?



The Voice Referendum will happen near the end 2023. We do not know the exact date yet.



How is the Referendum decided?

The law is changed if more than half of people who vote agree to change the Constitution.



This means that more than half of the voters:

- across Australia, and
- in at least four states

must vote “Yes” for the Referendum to pass.



What question will the Voice Referendum ask?

The question will be: “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 this proposed alteration?”



This means: “Should we change the Constitution by setting up an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament?

Yes or No?”

Where can I get more information?

Here are some websites with more information:



- [Life Without Barriers](#)
- [Polaron Language Service](#)