

Australia is having a conversation about the **Voice referendum** being held later this year.



It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

What is the Voice?

- The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have called for the Voice to be representative of First Nations peoples from across Australia, be gender balanced and involve young people.

Why a Voice?

- Australia has been talking about recognising First Nations peoples in the Constitution for more than a decade.
- In 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country came together. They considered all the options for recognition. They wrote the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which called for a Voice for First Nations peoples to be added to the Constitution.
- In 2022, the Australian Government agreed to have a referendum to let Australians decide whether to establish the Voice in the Constitution.

How would the Voice work?

- The Voice would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The intention is for the Voice to work alongside existing groups and organisations.
- It would be accountable and transparent.

Who would be in the Voice?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have called for members of the Voice to be chosen by First Nations peoples based on the wishes of local communities.

When will the Voice referendum be held?

- The referendum will be held in late 2023.
- Voting is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au



Australian Government