

National Voice Membership Numbers

The size of the membership of the proposed National Voice is important because it would affect how well the National Voice could do its job.

The National Voice would need to be big enough to be broadly representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia, with a gender balance among its members.

The National Voice would also need to be an appropriate size so it could make decisions in a timely way and respond effectively to changing circumstances.



The proposals

The National Co-design Group designed options for National Voice membership with up to 20 members.

Two options are presented for the core National Voice membership, which could be complemented by up to two appointed members (see Fact Sheet 6: National Voice Appointments).

Option 1: 18 members

- Two members of different gender for each state, territory and the Torres Strait Islands.

Option 2: 16 members

- Two members of different gender for each state and the Northern Territory.
- One member each for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and the Torres Strait Islands with a member of a different gender selected following each completed term.

The ACT and the Torres Strait Islands both have small geographic areas when compared to the other states and the Northern Territory. Both also represent smaller Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. These could be arguments for selecting one member each.

Most members of the National Co-Design Group supported the ACT and the Torres Strait Islands having two members.

With both the ACT and the Torres Strait Islands selecting two members each, it would make all states and territories equal. This option also recognises the uniqueness of the Torres Strait region.

An increase of two members to 18 members in Option 1 from 16 members in Option 2 would be a minor increase and would provide more diversity on the National Voice.



We want to hear your views on the proposal for membership numbers for the National Voice.



Have your say

You can have your say by:

- providing a submission on the proposal at voice.niaa.gov.au
- undertaking a survey at voice.niaa.gov.au
- sharing your views and ideas on social media tagging #IndigenousVoice
- holding a community discussion or go to a stakeholder meeting if it is COVID safe to do so
- sharing the materials with your family, friends and community.



Visit voice.niaa.gov.au to provide a submission, complete the survey or learn more about the Indigenous Voice proposals.