



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are rich in knowledge, passing stories from generation to generation. They hold a unique place in our nation's story.

The next step in this story is to make sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have more of a say on the laws, policies and services that impact their lives.

An Indigenous Voice could provide a mechanism for Indigenous Australians in communities around the country to have a say on how to improve their lives.

This would result in real changes on the ground and create a shared responsibility where Indigenous Australians can work in partnership with governments.

An Indigenous Voice could:

- provide advice and input on decisions, laws, policies, programs and services that are important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- be made up of two parts – Local and Regional Voices and a National Voice.

Local and Regional Voices and the National Voice could work together to share information, consult and provide advice.



Local and Regional Voice

? The proposal

A regional level governance structure that would:

- be designed and led by communities
- provide advice to all levels of government about what's important to communities in the region
- work in partnership with all governments to make plans on how to meet community aspirations and deliver on local priorities
- provide local views to the National Voice where this informs national issues.

Q What could it look like?

There would be no one set structure for a Local and Regional Voice. Different regions could have different structures, based on what works best for their local communities.

A flexible principles-based framework would guide and support all Local and Regional Voices.

This framework responds to the diversity that exists across the country. It would also allow communities to build on existing arrangements that are already working well.

⚡ Important features

Each Local and Regional Voice could:

- provide clear ways for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations in the region to get involved and have their say. This includes Traditional Owners and all other residents
- allow for local priorities to be addressed at the local level
- have an agreed way to work together in partnership with governments (for example through regular partnership meetings).

The Interim Report proposes from 25 to 35 Local and Regional Voice regions across Australia. Feedback from consultations will help to inform the advice to Government in the Final Report on this number. If the Government supports this proposal, there will be more discussions with communities and all governments to help decide regional boundaries.



National Voice

? The proposal

A national body made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that:

- could provide advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on relevant laws, policies and programs
- could engage early on with the Australian Parliament and Government in the development of relevant policies and laws.

Q What could it look like?

Membership for the National Voice could happen in two different ways:

- 'Structurally linked': Members selected from Local and Regional Voices.
- 'Directly elected': Elections held for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to elect National Voice members directly.

Either membership option would have a two-way advice link to Local and Regional Voices.

Members would represent their state or territory as well as the Torres Strait Islands.

⚡ Important features

The National Voice could:

- consist of up to 20 members, with guaranteed gender balance of members
- include Youth and Disability Advisory Groups to ensure the voices of these groups are heard
- connect with Local and Regional Voices to provide views from local communities
- work with existing bodies, structures and organisations
- advise on national matters that are critically important to the social, spiritual and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Have your say!

We want your feedback:

- What would be the impact of an Indigenous Voice for you, your community or organisation and Australia more broadly?
- What features of the Local and Regional proposal are most important and why?
- How would the proposed Local and Regional Voice work for you, your community or your organisation?
- What features are most important in the proposal for a National Voice and why?
- How would the proposed National Voice work for you, your community or your organisation?

Visit voice.niaa.gov.au to:

- complete the **survey**
- provide a **submission**
- find out about **webinars** and upcoming **consultation sessions**
- read the full Interim Report.

You can also join the conversation using **#IndigenousVoice** on social media.

