

Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

Consultation session details

Gadigal of the Eora Nation

Inner Sydney, 2.00pm 24 February 2021, Session 2

Number of participants: 8

Key points raised

Please note, this is a summary of the discussion and the views and opinions expressed by participants in consultations sessions. It is not intended to be an exhaustive summary of all points raised, but draws out the key points.

The afternoon session was attended by 8 participants and Auntie Yvonne Weldon gave an Acknowledgement of Country. Key points discussed are summarised below.

General discussion included:

- The session was with men from the Kinchela Boys Home, who are part of the Stolen Generations and discussion was around their connection to country and community being broken due to their experience.
- Participants felt that the Stolen Generations needs to be mentioned and recognised throughout the process, as they want to part of the communities mentioned specifically in the Indigenous Voice proposals.
- Participants felt that conversations must be inclusive, including during consultations and once the Indigenous Voice is established.
- Some participants identified that stage one of the process needed to hear the voices of everyone not just co-design members.
- Participants felt that there needed to be a specific group on Stolen Generations to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard – whether within each of the Local and Regional Voices and/or the National Voice.
- Some participants were critical of the stage one of the co-design process and felt that members were handpicked by the minister.
- Participants questioned what had already been determined prior to consultation, for example the defined number of regions. Co-design members reinforced that nothing has been determined, these are proposals for consultation.
- It was identified that the Interim Report did not include the story of the stolen generations, and the disconnection experienced is important to include. It was identified that participants thought it was important to see themselves in the proposals, and the importance of this for members of the stolen generations.

Discussion about the Local and Regional Voice proposal included:

- Some participants felt that to fix community issues there was a need to fix family issues.
- There was a discussion around Empowered Communities and the need for Inner Sydney to prove themselves or justify why funding has been received.
- There was a further discussion around how Local and Regional Voices sit alongside Empowered Communities regions, NSW Local Decision Making arrangements and all levels of Government.
- Some participants from Kempsey felt that they can't even get a meeting with local government, let alone state or federal, indicated how hard it would be for a Local and Regional Voice to engage across all levels of government.



Discussion on the National Voice proposals included:

- There was a question around when the National Voice would be consulted and a discussion that this would be a two-way relationship, with Government and/or Parliament requesting advice and the National Voice (via Local and Regional Voices) bringing issues from communities to the Government and Parliament.
- There was discussion around the fact that the Government will need to reform and what this will look like in order for it to interact with the Indigenous Voice.
- There was also suggestion that around inclusive participation that the groups that need to be included should be put in legislation.

Other issues raised included:

- There was discussion around the need for legislated recognition of Stolen Generations.
- There was discussion that Indigenous service providers don't always provide for members of stolen generations and that people find it very hard to access these services.
There was discussion that there was no national body that represented the stolen generations and that the healing foundation is not this body.