

Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

Consultation session details

Gadigal of the Eora Nation

Inner Sydney, 2.00pm 25 February 2021, Session 5

Number of participants: 7

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 7 participants and Aunty Yvonne Weldon gave an acknowledgement of country. Key points discussed are summarised below.

General discussion included:

- Some participants felt that the Uluru dialogues did not listen to the voices of all people and expressed a need not to duplicate that process.
- Some participants felt there needed to be a form a point of unity amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to ensure all the voices are heard.
- One participant expressed a lack of confidence in the proposals because of a lack of listening by Government in the past.
- Participants questioned the timeframe is for potential legislation and it was clarified that the Minister for Indigenous Australians intends for this to be this term of government.
- Some participants expressed the need to keep the Uluru statement alive while the Indigenous Voice consultation discussion is ongoing.

Discussion about the Local and Regional Voice proposal included:

- Some participants expressed feeling uncertain that Local and Regional Voices will work in NSW.
- Participants felt the need to ensure youth are involved in cultural leadership and that this understanding comes from Elders in the communities.
- One participant questioned where Native Title claimants and land rights claimants fit into the Local and Regional proposal.

Discussion on the National Voice proposals included:

- There was a discussion on how to make the Indigenous Voice independent of the election cycles and not reliant on the Government in power who could abolish it under legislation.

Other issues raised included:

- There was a discussion on previous legal battles around sovereignty and land rights.
- There was a discussion around human rights issues, including cultural rights.
- One participant felt the need for a definition of truth before discussions on truth telling.
- One participant discussed how local projects of healing are needed due to high rates of suicide in the community.
- There was a discussion on lateral violence and the trauma Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people carry.