

# Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

## Consultation session details

**Barnjarla country, Port Lincoln, 16 March 2021, 9:30, Session 1**

**Number of participants: 20**

## 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 session was attended by 20 participants and was facilitated by co-design members Ms Zell Dodd and Mr Wayne Miller. Key issues discussed are summarised below.

### *Overarching points*

- Participants were supportive of the Voice proposals and felt it was a good initiative.
- Some participants commented that they had had these type of discussions with Government before and were cautious of getting too excited about something that might end with a change of government. It was suggested the Voice should be enshrined in the constitution to protect it from simply being abolished by Government.
- One participant noted that things had worked well under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).
- Several participants raised the importance of training young people to become the next generation of community leaders and that young people needed to be included in these Voice discussions.
- Participants all agreed that there needed to be a process of truth telling and that the people who will sit on the Voice, need to hear the truth, speak the truth, and accept the truth.

### *Local & Regional Voice*

- There was a consistent message from participants that community voices needed to be strengthened before considering what a regional level Voice might look like. Some participants also felt that it was critical to get the Local and Regional Voice right first before the National Voice was established.
- Participants discussed the different levels of funding across the region and how this may make a cohesive regional group challenging.
- Participants were interested in the linkages between the different Voice proposals and questioned how the proposal would ensure that local voices would be carried from community all the way up to the state/territory and commonwealth government levels.
- One participant suggested a community Voice committee should be formed which other participants generally agreed with.
- One participant noted that the South Australian Government was already using a regional framework with five regions and questioned how the Voice proposal would work with this existing state framework.

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- Most participants strongly supported the principle of inclusive participation to ensure that previously unheard voices within the community could be heard. The importance of cultural leadership was also touched on in reference to the role of local Traditional Owners.

### *National Voice*

- Participants were supportive of South Australia having two members on the National voice and were pleased to see the state would be on equal footing with the larger, more populous states.
- Participants questioned how National Voice members would be supported and noted that adequate resourcing would be needed.
- One participant noted that there were currently a few Aboriginal Voices in Parliament through the elected members or senators. There was interest in how the new Voice being proposed would be recognised compared to the existing voices currently in Parliament.
- Participants agreed that for the Voice to be a success, Government and Parliamentarians would need to build their own cultural capabilities and engage respectfully with the Voice.

### *Co-design process*

- One participant commented that it was good to see so many different organisations represented in the room while another participant was surprised there weren't more community members in attendance. It was noted that those in the room need to be accountable to their communities.
- There was consensus among participants that further discussion was needed with more people from the community involved and greater openness and transparency among community members generally.
- In general, the participants concluded that they needed time to go through the information and reflect on the conversations. There was interest in inviting the co-design members back to talk again in more detail.