

Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

Consultation session details

Wardandi within Noongar country,

Bunbury, 8 April, 5pm, Session 2

Number of participants: 6

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 six participants who were welcomed to country by Ms Lera Bennell. Key points discussed are summarised below.

Overarching points

- There was a general sentiment that there is no harm in giving this a go.
- Participants acknowledged that communities have to come together for the Voice to succeed.
- There was consensus among participants that in order to affect change, they needed to speak with one voice.
- It was acknowledged that the interim report offers quite a bold set of statements – particularly around the change required from government and the systemic transformation to the way governments do business.
- It was noted that government will need to build their capacity to engage with the Voice.

Local & Regional Voice

- One participant commented on the number and diversity of language groups in Western Australia and called for a larger number of regions, suggesting 10 regions for WA.
- Another participant noted that although there are differences between the local groups, people all want the same things: education, better futures for their kids and an end] to racism.
- There was general consensus that a Noongar region would work and that Noongar country traditional owners should be central to the structure.
- One participant noted that they don't want to be grouped/associated with the 'city mob'.
- The importance of including previously unheard voices was also raised by one participant.

National Voice

- One participant welcomed the proposal and noted it will start to permeate across a lot of things.
- There was discussion on priority areas of focus for a future National Voice to engage with including:
 - Justice:
 - There was frustration from a couple of participants about the size and scale of the justice issue and the lack of culturally responsive services in Bunbury.



- It was acknowledged that services that are available in the metropolitan area are not available in the regional area.
- Social determinants of health:
 - It's important to have a strong voice on the multitude of things that lead to good health.
 - Intergenerational trauma leaves a lasting impact on individuals and communities.
 - Ongoing incidents of racism contribute to stress and mental health.
- The general discussion about these topics emphasised the importance of strong linkages between the National voice and Local and Regional Voices.
- One participant noted they saw value in the National voice being able to share examples of success stories and pick up on different models and strategies being used across the country.

Co-design process

- There was some discussion about how the consultations had been advertised and information dissemination. The timing of consultations sessions was briefly discussed.
- It was noted that regional people often feel they are 'out of the loop' of these conversations.
- One participant reflected that in the early days of Reconciliation Australia, people were encouraged to have reconciliation discussions in their lounge rooms. This idea still appealed and could be applied to the voice.
- One participant noted that they are having conversations with people about the voice. The general sentiment is that the proposals aren't controversial and there is interest in what's going on but people don't necessarily want to come to a face-to-face consultation session and debate it.
- There was interest in the role of the co-design members and what had motivated each of them to be involved in this process. It was confirmed that the co-design members do not represent government. They are working with support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency to present a report to government.