

Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

Consultation session details

Devonport, 10am, 12 May 2021

Number of participants: 10

Key points raised

Please note, this is a summary of the discussion and the views and opinions expressed by participants in consultation 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 10 participants who were welcomed to country by David Gough. Key points discussed are summarised below.

Overarching points

- There were concerns from a number of participants about the issue of lateral violence and the risk this may occur in the context of establishing a voice. A participant remarked that government cannot just step in a fix the issues facing Aboriginal people – ‘this is something we have to do for ourselves.’
- One participant said they were ‘anxious we are not going to let go of the things that have divided us.’ Another person said ‘we have to let go of the issues we have had in the past that are holding us back.’
- A participant said ‘this is an opportunity to draw a line in the sand. It feels so good.’
- A further participant said that ‘this is where it has to begin’ but said that the process must be ‘thoughtful, inclusive and respectful.’
- Some students from the region spoke strongly about the perspective of young people and the need for a voice to support youth to be themselves – ‘A voice should be accepting of us and provide opportunities for us to grow.’ They also said it was very important to make sure we are not overlooked when a voice is established.

Local & Regional Voice

- Participants felt that the model needed to allow the community to take the next steps but that legislation was important.
- There was concern over governments supporting one group over other groups. The model must be inclusive.
- A participant noted the differences between people based on their connection to different organisations and family groups and the need for a voice to not be limited in this way.
- While people supported the youth committee for the National Voice they also felt it was important there were arrangements at the Local and Regional level to make sure young people’s voices were heard there also.
- Participants were generally supportive of the Principles Based Framework approach to a Local and Regional Voice which they felt allowed different regions to develop the best model for them.



National Voice

- There was discussion on the split of regions and the need for this to take account of history and culture as much as possible.
- A person said you can never set up something which is perfect but that is ok 'it will evolve and change once we start.' They said we need to start discussing this now.