

Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

Consultation session details

Waanyi and Ganggalidda country,

Doomadgee, 12 May 2021, 9am

Number of participants: 74 participants across the session and meeting.

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.

Overarching points

- Participants discussed the importance of community as part of any model, and how communities need to directly see themselves in this.
- Participants supported the community-driven approach, where people determine how to meet the
- Participants expressed support for co-design members consulting at this stage of the process, where there is opportunity to provide feedback ahead of further design/implementation.
- It was noted that there hasn't been a representative body since ATSIC and this has created a missing link.
- Participants discussed a range of questions about implementation, including when it would be established, and what the next steps would be.

Local & Regional Voice

- Participants noted that one of the most important parts of the proposal is that communities/regions design their own approach – there is no one-size-fits all model.
- Participants noted that elders need to be at the heart of designing any model.
- Participants noted that it can be difficult to bring people together. The approach needs to recognise different cultures and empower people to come together themselves.
- Participants noted that community has to be accountable and they know how to address issues. Creating ways to allow this to happen would be a good step forward, and participants thought that it would be important to take the opportunity.
- Participants noted that borders for regions were not yet determined, and further work would need to be undertaken to progress this – and community would need to get involved.
- One participant talked about a local voice that had been established linked to the Doomadgee Health Council and how it is an opportunity to have a say in how services are delivered. However people don't always know about it – so it is important that there is strong communication and people get involved.
- Participants raised a number of different opportunities to empower local people, including employment. Other issues including the need to have a say in the way policies are designed to take account of local perspectives were also raised, including how medical services/hospitals respond in instances of neglect.



National Voice

- Participants noted that there have been Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people elected to Parliament, however they are elected to represent their electorate, not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Participants discussed the membership numbers and approach to select, and noted that it would be important to be clear how local and regional voices flow through to a National Voice, and there could be some risks with this given the smaller numbers.