

# Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

## Consultation session details

**Gurindji country,**

**Lajamanu, 6 May 2021, 11.00am – 2.00pm**

**Number of participants: 40**

## 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 40 participants. Key points discussed are summarised below.

### *Overarching points*

- Participants agreed on the importance of the Indigenous Voice and expressed support for the proposals. One participant stated, “This is the only way we can have a voice, through that Indigenous Voice”. Participants stressed the importance of everyone working together as one voice in order to achieve long-lasting and substantive change.
- Some participants expressed concern about the federal government and NT Government’s commitment to listen to the Indigenous Voice. One participant questioned whether there is bipartisan federal support for an Indigenous Voice and asked whether it would have “proper power”.

### *Local & Regional Voice*

- Participants were particularly concerned with ensuring Local and Regional Voices would allow the voiceless to have a say (“a voice for the voiceless”), particularly those who aren’t part of existing structures such as local councils. It was considered important for there to be clear ways for people, communities and organisations in each region to be involved in their Local and Regional Voice, whether they are traditional owners or not – acknowledging the Voice should not interfere with traditional owner matters.
- Some participants expressed frustration that people’s voices aren’t being heard in Lajamanu despite there being many existing local representative groups. They expressed a view that there needs to be a representative group that will consult properly with the community and discuss local needs and priorities with governments.
- Participants viewed community input on government decision making as essential. One participant commented that government has “got to learn how to solve the problem with us, let’s work together ... but you have to listen to our opinion first, what problems we face, not



make the decision in your chair in Canberra, you don't know how we live". The participant further stated that if "you want to know the truth about Indigenous people in the community, you come down and ask them".

- One participant questioned how Local and Regional Voices would be elevated to the National Voice, particularly in situations where local issues cannot be resolved locally and need to be escalated. Co-design members explained that Local and Regional Voices could bring these issues to the two NT representatives on the National Voice, who could take issues with a national interest to the National Voice to be addressed.