

Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

Consultation session details

Mt Gambier, 21 May, Session 2 Virtual, 10:30

Number of participants: 4

Key points raised

Please note, this is a summary of the discussion and the views 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 held virtually and attended by four participants. Key points discussed are summarised below.

Overarching points

- Participants recognised the importance of this work and felt the Voice offered an opportunity for people to move forward.
 - The need for healing was emphasised.
- It was acknowledged that there needs to be shift in the dynamic between communities and governments to ensure governments are listening.
- There was some concern that the Voice could be shut down if the Government disagrees with its views or the views are 'unpalatable'.
- One participant noted the importance of bringing non-Aboriginal people along 'on the journey' to make this work.
- There was agreement among participants that these proposals need to work for community.

Local & Regional Voice

- Participants discussed the proposed number of regions for South Australia and expressed some concern that 2-3 regions may not be sufficient.
- One participant felt the Limestone Coast should be its own region, otherwise their voices would be diluted.
- There was agreement that local governments have an important role to play in this process.
- One participant acknowledged the need for change at the local government level. Particularly, in the way local governments undertake work (referred to as the 'value proposition') with a focus on ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community are included.
- One participant spoke about the importance of state level representation.
 - They noted that people in Mt Gambier are often excluded from state level consultations. 'We need to make sure we are equally valued by State Government, alongside other Aboriginal communities in the North and West of the State'.
- One participant noted the Voice needs to be funded appropriately and that community needs to be supported to come together.

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- Participants supported the inclusive participation principle and wanted to see everyone have a voice. This included people living in the area who may be 'off country'.
 - Participants agreed community capacity building needs to occur – 'We've lost a lot of capability in the community'.
 - It was clarified that these proposals are not intended to replace existing structures that are working well or have statutory functions, rather, it's about strengthening community engagement mechanisms and empowerment.

National Voice

- There was brief discussion about the two models for selecting National Voice members.
- Participants agreed that both models need to protect against nepotism.
- There was some discussion about how the Voice would be funded.
 - It was clarified that the Voice would be independent and that the Interim Report notes the importance of adequate resourcing.
- There was discussion about how the National Voice would link up with and interact with the Coalition of Peaks.

Co-design process

- Participants discussed how to capture the voices of people not in attendance and have more conversations 'around the kitchen table'.
- There was some discussion about the timeframe for this work.
 - It was clarified that the final report is expected to go to the Government mid-year.