

Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

Consultation session details

Warumungu country,

Tennant Creek, 5 May 2021, 5.00pm – 7.30pm, session 2

Number of participants: 15

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 15 participants. Key points discussed are summarised below.

Overarching points

- One participant expressed a distrust of government, noting that ‘bush mob’, Aboriginal people who live in the remote communities and townships around regional centres such as Tennant Creek, are “always the last people to get the news, first to be let down” and struggle to be involved in the process of determining representatives from their region. Co-design members affirmed the importance of consulting with bush mob as well as people living in regional centres about what their region would look like if the proposal is implemented.
- Participants questioned how they can be asked to put faith in an Indigenous Voice when they have previously been let down by government. Co-design members noted these concerns and stressed that the proposals are intended to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and allow communities to come together and participate in decision making.

Local & Regional Voice

- One participant asked how Local and Regional Voices would be heard at the national level. Co-design members noted there would be a two-way flow of advice between Local and Regional Voices and the National Voice.
- The participant also asked how the process of decision making with governments would occur. Co-design members explained that formal agreements between Local and Regional Voices and government could allow Local and Regional Voices to negotiate what programs and services are funded, how they are funded and whether this meets community-identified priorities.

National Voice

- One participant sought clarification on the number of representatives on the National Voice, expressing confusion around whether there would be two representatives from each Local and Regional Voice. Co-design members clarified that there would be two representatives from each state and territory.



- Participants discussed the challenges of a direct election model, noting that enrolment and turnout rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are low. One participant commented on the issue of low adult literacy that could cut out people’s opportunity to have a say unless there is a national way of addressing literacy before embarking on this proposal.
 - One participant expressed support for the direct election model.
- Participants talked about how youth and people with disability will be represented. One participant commented on the importance of ensuring the knowledge of older people is transferred to younger people, noting the average age of people in the Barkly region is 24-45. They stated that this knowledge is currently being lost when older people pass away because the education system isn’t working.
- One participant expressed strong support for LGBT people having a permanent role at the national level.