

Local & Regional Voices – next steps

The Australian Government has released the Indigenous Voice Co-design Process Final Report: voice.niaa.gov.au

The Final Report was prepared by the 52 member co-design groups following an extensive consultation process.

Local & Regional Voices

- The Final Report is clear that Local & Regional Voices is the next step to ensure the Indigenous Voice speaks for local communities.

Whole of government partnerships with Local & Regional Voices

- The Final Report recommends that for Local & Regional Voices to be successful, they must speak to all levels of government (federal, state and local).
- The Australian Government, state and territory governments and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) are working together to consider how to implement this significant reform.
- The discussions aim to ensure whole-of-government participation in the Local & Regional Voice arrangements, as proposed in the Final Report.

Continued co-design

- As set out in the Final Report, continuing a co-design approach through the implementation stage will be important. This will be done through:
 - A Local & Regional Voice Establishment Group being set up in consultation with states and territories, to guide implementation overall.
 - Key Indigenous groups in each jurisdiction working with three levels of government to consider the implementation approach in their state or territory, including details of regions.
- Community-led design is at the centre of this process.
 - Once regions are determined, local people will be supported by governments to design their own Local & Regional Voice arrangements consistent with the principles (see *Fact Sheet: Local & Regional Voice Principles*).
- This process may take between 18-24 months, depending on the region.
 - This is an indicative timeline only, recognising it will take time to work through things.
 - Key decisions such as the design of specific Local & Regional Voices must be done by communities themselves, at their pace.