

Local & Regional Voices

Local & Regional Voices will be designed and led by communities.

The aim is to give all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents in each region an opportunity to be part of a process that will provide advice and work in partnership with all levels of government on the policies, programs and services that affect them.

How will this happen?

Discussions between the Australian Government, state and territory governments and the Australian Local Government Association are underway to build cross-government support for this initiative. Once this is finalised, key Indigenous stakeholders in each state and territory and governments will work through the implementation details for their jurisdiction, including regions.

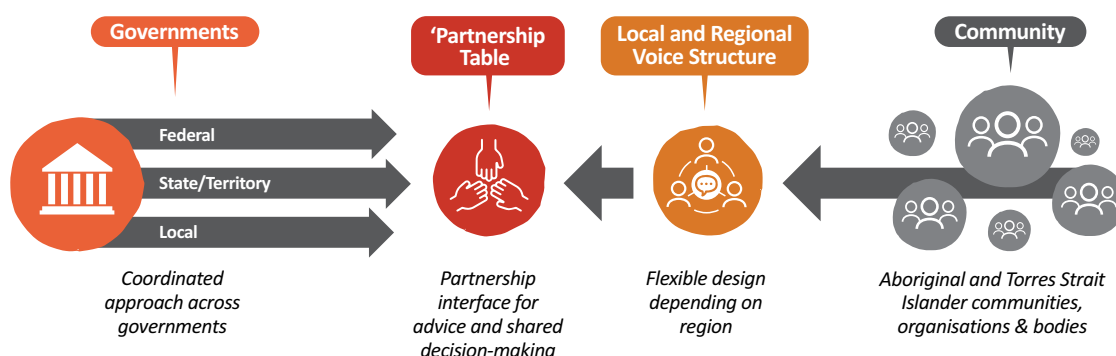
Local people, communities and organisations in each region will then design their Local & Regional Voices in line with the Local & Regional Voice Principles (see *Fact Sheet: Local & Regional Voice Principles*). Governments will provide support and resources for these community design groups.

When design is completed, each proposed set of arrangements will go through a formal process to be recognised as a Local & Regional Voice for the specific region. This will be based on meeting minimum expectations drawn from the three principles related to good governance: *Inclusive Participation, Cultural Leadership and Transparency and Accountability*.

What will a Local & Regional Voice look like?

Local & Regional Voice arrangements will need to be consistent with the principles-based framework but can look different depending on what works best for communities in each region. They can be new or build on existing arrangements that are working well and align with the principles.

Local & Regional Voices will work with their communities to decide their aspirations, goals and priorities. They will then come together with all levels of government at a 'partnership table' to provide advice, develop plans, and jointly consider how existing and future investment into the region should be used to provide the best outcomes.



Important features

Local & Regional Voices can look different but all are likely to have:

- a leadership group at the regional level
- local community-based groups and arrangements that link to the leadership group
- a secretariat team to support their work
- partnership arrangements with all levels of government.

Local & Regional Voices, governments and partnership arrangements will be guided by the nine principles.