

Dear Indigenous Voice and Co-design Groups,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion, we are pleased to provide this submission to the Indigenous Voice Co-design process.

The Fay Fuller Foundation is a South Australian based private philanthropic organisation funding into the South Australian community. We support and resource communities in regional, rural, and remote South Australia and have recently committed to perpetual funding in the Aboriginal Health space through working closely in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOS) across the state and the broader Aboriginal community. We recognise the historical injustices of colonisation and dispossession and present-day unjust treatment of our First Nation's People, the tragedy that is the continued removal of Aboriginal children from their families, over policing and incarceration, and poorer health and educational outcomes.

With a population representing only three percent of the greater Australian population, and since the dissolution of ATSIC, the opportunity and pathways to influence and advocate at both the state and federal level have been few and far between for Aboriginal peoples. It is clear to us that a **constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament** is vital and in fact long overdue.

We believe that The Voice should have guaranteed input prior to the passing of legislation and policy, should operate in bipartisanship at both state and federal levels, should speak for and be representative of community. The Voice must have agency be respected for its authority.

We encourage the Federal government to meet the commitment made prior to the 2019 Election to bring the proposed Voice before the Australian people in a referendum and to meet it's obligations to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to enshrine political autonomy and right to participate in the political life of the state.

As we are not an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled service we consequently refrain from commenting on proposed governance models for The Voice, however, we do make the following requests:

Assurance that the makeup, participation, and governance structure of The Voice is representative of the diversity of the Aboriginal community, reflective of the need that exists for greater agency and say over decision-making and avoids regionalisation.

The Federal government commits to calling a referendum once a model for the Voice has been agreed to, ideally in the next term of government and that if successful the government will act without delay to enact constitutional reform and legislate the initial convening of The Voice.