

On behalf of SJ Around the Bay I urge the Government to ensure that the voices of the First Nations of Australia are heard and that the formal Voice structure, (National, Regional and Local), are enshrined in the Constitution. This will afford required protection against the constant changes to the various institutions and structures that have, to some extent, been a voice for Indigenous Australians in the past. Most importantly, it is what Indigenous Australians want after centuries of exploitation, suffering, disposition and discrimination. The continued failure to implement the various recommendations to reduce 'black deaths in custody' is just one of many instances where the voices of Indigenous Australians in not heard.

Once the Voice is given a place in the Constitution via referendum, enabling legislation must be passed in the next term of parliament to ensure that the three tiered model that is proposed is implemented.

In consultation with the architects of the Voice, the membership of the National Voice must ensure that previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have the same chance of being selected as established leadership figures.