

Submission to the Voice Co-design Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Indigenous Voice Co-Design Committee Interim Report.

I do not support a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament.

There are existing provisions within the Constitution that allow Parliament to make laws for any race if deemed necessary S51(xxvi). I believe that this provides the avenue for the establishment of a special interest group, ie Voice, to have a special and separate conduit to the Federal Parliament.

It is inappropriate to incorporate a discrete and specific group, club, association and/or organisation in the principal governing document of this nation.

The idea of the establishment of a special interest group to advocate for the wants and needs of members of the group is worthwhile. The opportunity to establish such a group is one of the benefits of this nation. The proposed Voice is such a group. The Voice, in whatever format is decided upon must have a clearly defined governance structure, scope and rules of operations. Currently there are no such clearly defined governance structure, scope and operational boundaries. When is it proposed to define these items?

The extent of the powers and authority of such a group has not been clearly defined. It is inappropriate to be submitting any proposal to the public for consideration and asking them to give informed consent, when it is not clear what is being asked to be approved.

With regards to the National Voice, I believe that it is important that the membership be directly elected. It would allow, and require the members to take the broader perspective, to focus on national matters.

Is there intended to be any correlation between the existing governmental (national, state and local) boundaries? It would be administratively better and easier if there was correlation.

There needs to be a definition of the word "affecting" to clarify the extent of operations and/or authority.

Thank you for your efforts and your work to date and for the opportunity to make a submission.