



# Constitutional Recognition through Voice

## Voice Q&As

This year, Australians will be asked if there should be constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. To increase awareness and understanding of the upcoming referendum, we have answered a few common questions.

### **What is the constitution?**

The constitution is Australia's founding legal document and is essentially a set of rules. To change our constitution, it can only be done through a referendum.

### **What is a referendum?**

A referendum is a vote made by the Australian population to change the constitution. Referendums are similar to elections, but instead of voting for people to be Members of Parliament, Australia is answering a simple question with a yes or no answer.

### **What are we going to be asked?**

The proposed referendum question is, **"A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?"** To approve this change, Australians will need to write the answer 'Yes' to the question when voting.

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## Q&As Cont

### What is the Voice?

The Voice is a representative body made up of Indigenous Australians and will advise parliament on laws and policies that directly affect Indigenous people.

### How would the Voice be set up?

The Voice will be chosen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people based on the wishes of local communities. It will be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, gender balanced and include youth and it will be empowering, community-led, inclusive, respectful and culturally informed.

### What will change if the referendum is successful?

It will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia a direct line of communication with politicians, allowing them to offer practical solutions to unique challenges they face in areas such as jobs, health, education and justice. Real community voices will be heard to make sure policies and laws result in practical results on the ground.

If you want to find out more about the referendum:

- <https://voice.gov.au/>
- <https://yes23.com.au/faqs-about-the-referendum>
- <https://ulurustatement.org/training/#/>