

Referendum question and constitutional amendment

In late 2023, Australians will have their say in a referendum on whether to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia in the Constitution through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The Voice would be an independent, representative body for First Nations peoples.

- It would advise the Australian Parliament and the Government.
- It would give First Nations peoples a say on matters that affect them.

For the referendum to pass, a majority of voters need to vote 'yes' nationally, plus a majority of voters in at least 4 out of 6 states. This is known as a double majority.

On 19 June 2023, Parliament passed the Constitution Alteration Bill. This means the referendum question and proposed amendment to the Constitution are now set.

Referendum question

On referendum day, voters will be asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' on a single question. The question will be:

"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?"

Constitutional amendment

The 'Proposed Law' that Australians are being asked to vote upon is set out in the Constitution Alteration Bill. If approved at the referendum, the following words would be added to the Constitution:

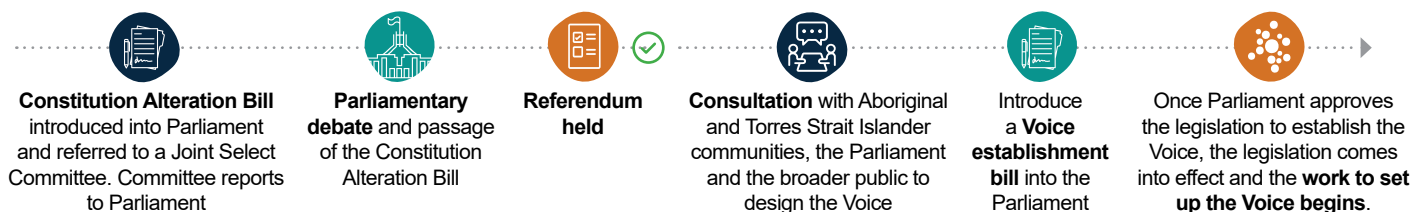
Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

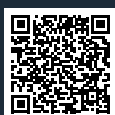
In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.

Process



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