

The Australian Government Voice Referendum

Fact Sheet

How to use this fact sheet



The fact sheet is written in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

This fact sheet was written by the
Australian Government.



Australian Government

When you see the word 'we' it means the
Australian Government.



You can ask for help to read this document.



A friend, family member or support person may
be able to help you.



Some words are written in **bold**. These words are the name of something called **The Voice**. We explain what **The Voice** is on Page 4.



A referendum is when you say what you think about an important change in your country.

You do it by filling out a vote, like for an election.



In this vote:

- You are given a question.
- You must give a yes or no answer to the question.



Australia is going to have a referendum this year.

We will be asking everyone the same question.



The question we are asking is about a new group that could work with the government.

The group would be called:

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.



We call this group **The Voice** for short.

What is the Voice?



Advice is information we tell people to help them make choices.



The Voice would be a group of people who give advice to the government.



All the people in this group would be:

- Aboriginal
and/or
- Torres Strait Islander.



The people in **The Voice** would have special knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



The people in **The Voice** would not work for the government.

The Voice would be able to give advice to the government that they think is important.



Some things **The Voice** could give advice on include:

- How Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in Australia
- How the laws affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- How the government can help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Who would be in the Voice?



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want **The Voice** to include:

- Lots of different people who come from different places around Australia
- Both men and women
- Young and old people
- All the people in **The Voice** must be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

What happens after you vote?



The Constitution is a rule book that tells people how the country works.

The Constitution tells everyone:

- What the laws are
- How the government works
- What people in the government can do.



The referendum will ask you if we should create **The Voice**.

If most people in Australia vote yes, we will add some rules to the Constitution.



This means the government would need to create **The Voice**.

It also means we would need to give people in **The Voice** a chance to speak on important topics.

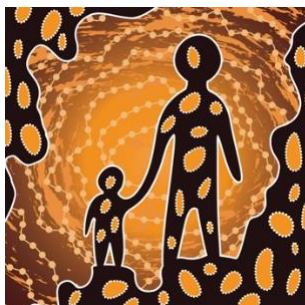


When you change the Constitution, the changes last a long time.



If we create **The Voice**, it will be around for a long time.

Why are we asking you about **The Voice**?



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the first kind of people who lived in Australia.



Their families have lived here for longer than any other people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people did not always have someone to understand them in the government.



This group of people want to be able to talk about the laws that affect them.

In 2017, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people came together to decide what to do:



- They thought about the options.
- They asked the government to create **The Voice.**



The government decided to have a referendum.

The referendum means every Australian voter can share their opinion.



You can vote yes or no to **The Voice.**



The votes will help the government decide if we will create **The Voice**.

When will the referendum for **The Voice** happen?



Australia will have the referendum in 2023.



You can vote yes or no to **The Voice**.

We will tell you when you need to fill in your vote.

Every Australian person who is 18 or older must vote.



You can talk about this information with your friends and family.



You can learn more about **The Voice** by going to this website: <https://voice.gov.au/>

