



WINNING A VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS AUSTRALIANS

WHAT IS THE VOICE?

The Voice will be a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (First Nations) from across Australia. Their job will be to help the government understand how new laws could affect First Nations peoples.

So, for the first time, instead of our government telling First Nations peoples what is best for them, First Nations peoples will have a chance to explain to the government what they think is best.

Q&A

Why is this Union business?

Unions always stand up for fairness, justice and making sure no one is left behind. These issues affect many of our First Nations members. They have asked for our help. Our member leadership endorsed this campaign at the 2022 Member Convention.

I heard many First Nations Peoples don't even agree on the Voice?

Over 80% of First Nations peoples support Constitutional Recognition and a Voice to Parliament. There are some First Nations peoples who don't agree, think it doesn't go far enough, or think a Treaty should come first. As with any group of people, there are different views and they should be heard.

Will this actually change anything?

Australia has seen over 200 years of laws and policies that have failed to meaningfully close the gap between First Nations Peoples and the rest of Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people know and understand the best way to deliver real and practical change in their communities. Government will get better advice, and this will lead to better outcomes.

CLOSING THE GAP

For over 200 years Australian governments have been making decisions about First Nations peoples. These decisions have resulted in the outcomes we see today. The statistics show that life for many First Nations Australians is hard, short and poor. It starts that way, and few are given the chance to catch up. Something isn't working and needs to change.

THE UGLY TRUTH

8 YRS

Life expectancy of First Nations Australians is 8 years shorter than other Australians.



First Nations adults make up around 3% of the population, but constitute 27% of the national prison population. These rates are rising.

2X

First Nations child mortality (death) rates are twice that of other Australians.



Average weekly earnings are half that of other Australians.



Suicide is the leading cause of death for First Nations children aged 5-17.



Suicide rates for First Nations Australians are twice that of other Australians and these rates are rising.

5% of First Nations children are in out-of-home care and this rate is rising.

WINNING A REFERENDUM

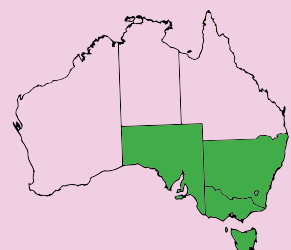
To win a Yes vote on the Voice we need to win a double majority:

- A majority of states vote Yes (NT & ACT don't count)
- An national majority of voters vote Yes (NT & ACT do count)

Almost 9 million Australians will need to vote Yes to win Voice. We are going to have to talk to everybody, even people we don't normally talk to about politics.

- ✓ Majority of Australian Voters
- ✓ Majority of voters in at least 4 states

✓ CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION



TAKE ACTION JOIN THE CAMPAIGN



Q&A (CONT'D)

Why is there not much detail on the Voice?

Australians are being asked to vote on the idea of recognising First Nations peoples and a Voice to Parliament. The detail is like everything else in the Constitution- researched, planned, debated and voted on by experts, Governments and Parliaments - which is what we elected them to do.

For example, Australia's Constitution says that Parliament should make laws so that Australia has an army and a navy to defend the country. It doesn't give details of numbers of soldiers or equipment or budgets, it's just a couple of lines saying we should have it.

We are voting on the idea of recognition and a Voice. Parliament will work out the detail, and details will be adjusted over the years as things change.

Doesn't this divide the nation?

This unites the nation. Many First Nations peoples feel apart from the rest of Australian society. They don't have the same quality of life and opportunities that most of us do and feel ignored.

A strong YES vote will show that we care about our First Nations peoples. If we take action to lift the most marginalised people in our country up, it shows who we really are and what we stand for. This will make Australia a kinder, fairer society that values everyone, no matter what they look like, where they live or what language they speak.

I'm not sure, I don't know enough, maybe we should do this later?

If this referendum fails, it will set reconciliation between First Nations and other Australians back for a generation. The 1999 referendum on Australia becoming a republic failed, and no Government has wanted to try again even though most Australians support it. This is our chance to do something that is right, practical and long overdue. We cannot miss this chance.

It is a simple question, Should we recognise Australia's first peoples, 65,000 years of culture, and should we give them a seat at the table on decisions that affect them? If in your heart you agree with those questions, the answer is simple. YES.

✔ **Commit to Vote Yes**

✔ **Talk** to your friends, family and workmates – it will take all of us to win

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www.uwu.org.au/voteforvoice

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✔ For feedback or tips about the UWU YES campaign, please contact yes@unitedworkers.org.au



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