

# Australia is having a conversation about the **Voice referendum** being held later this year.



**It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.**

## **What is the Voice?**

- The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have called for the Voice to be representative of First Nations peoples from across Australia, be gender balanced and involve young people.

## **Why a Voice?**

- Australia has been talking about recognising First Nations peoples in the Constitution for more than a decade.
- In 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country came together. They considered all the options for recognition. They wrote the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which called for a Voice for First Nations peoples to be added to the Constitution.
- In 2022, the Australian Government agreed to have a referendum to let Australians decide whether to establish the Voice in the Constitution.

## **How would the Voice work?**

- The Voice would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The intention is for the Voice to work alongside existing groups and organisations.
- It would be accountable and transparent.

## **Who would be in the Voice?**

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have called for members of the Voice to be chosen by First Nations peoples based on the wishes of local communities.

## **When will the Voice referendum be held?**

- The referendum will be held in late 2023.
- Voting is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over.

**Get informed.**  
**Voice.gov.au**



Australian Government