

The Voice to Parliament Referendum



Historically, the only way we as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had a voice was through protest, petitions, and demonstrations.

Now it's our chance to change the course of history by voting yes to constitutionally enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

In June, NSWALC formally endorsed the Yes campaign.

The upcoming Referendum is to amend the Australian Constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First People of this country.

Constitutional recognition is something that NSWALC has long advocated for as an important step to a better future for our people.

Changing the Constitution means that we will have a guaranteed right to speak to Government and Parliament about what is needed to practically improve community's lives, not telling us what they think suits us.

By having that direct conversation, we can address the ongoing disadvantage and discrimination our community faces. We have the answers, this change will make those answers heard.

The Voice will be established if the Referendum is successful.

NSWALC's Key Principles on The Voice

- a. Include Constitutional protections;
- b. Enshrine shared decision-making, genuine partnership, self-determination, and free, prior, informed consent;
- c. Are inclusive, accountable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples;
- d. Genuinely advance Aboriginal people's rights and interests and include clear safeguards that existing rights of Aboriginal peoples will be protected;
- e. Protect gains made by Aboriginal peoples including with regard to shared decision-making, for example in relation to Closing the Gap;
- f. Guarantee that the Voice will not undermine existing positive government commitments, including in relation to NSW Aboriginal Land Rights;
- g. Ensure our self-determining Aboriginal community-controlled structures and initiatives will be protected and strengthened, including Aboriginal Land Councils;
- h. Are agreed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our representative structures;
- i. Are independently financially secure.

