



Information sheet (summary) – proposed model First Nations Voice in South Australia

Background

South Australia will be introducing a First Nations Voice to the Parliament, to provide First Nations people a greater say in decisions and issues that affect them.

The Voice will inform South Australia's Parliament and government, to influence laws, policies and programs at the highest levels of decision-making. It delivers on the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, a historic call from First Nations people from across the country for structural reform to improve First Nations representation centred on self-determination and empowerment.

Engagement to date

From August to October 2022, South Australia's Inaugural Commissioner for First Nations Voice Dale Agius conducted a state-wide engagement with First Nations people and communities to seek their views about how a Voice could work best.

The Commissioner has released an engagement report summarising the feedback that was received.

A draft Bill has been prepared based on the views received. The First Nations Voice Bill 2022 proposes how the First Nations Voice to Parliament will work. Engagement on the draft Bill will be held from 17 November 2022 to 6 January 2023.

What is proposed

The First Nations Voice Bill 2022 proposes a model that would provide First Nations people in South Australia the ability to speak directly to Parliament and engage with all levels of government.

The draft Bill proposes a state-wide First Nations group is formed (the State First Nations Voice), to advise and address Parliament. It would be informed by a number of Local First Nations Voices.

Key points that are proposed:

- Regions will be established in South Australia, each with their own Local First Nations Voice. The number of members and regions has yet to be determined but each Local First Nations Voice would have an equal number of male and female members.
- Local First Nations Voice members are First Nations people, elected by First Nations people. The election process is managed by the Electoral Commission of South Australia.
- Local First Nations Voices would appoint joint presiding members – one male and one female.



- Local First Nations Voices can talk to and consider matters of interest to local First Nations people and engage and collaborate with public sector agencies, local government and other organisations.
- Local First Nations Voices would inform the State Voice about matters of interest to their regions. They must meet at least four times a year and at most six times a year, unless the Minister approves additional meetings.
- The State body (the State First Nations Voice) would be made up of the male and female presiding members of each Local First Nations Voice.
- The State First Nations Voice would liaise with each Local First Nations Voice and present their views on matters of importance to First Nations people to the Parliament, the Government and other bodies.

Roles and functions of the State First Nations Voice

The State First Nations Voice will have the ability to present directly to the Parliament. It will be able to:

- address the Parliament on particular Bills of interest to First Nations people
- make an annual address to Parliament
- provide reports to the Parliament on matters of interest
- Speak with Ministers and Chief Executives about the operations, budgets and priorities of their departments in an annual engagement hearing.

Eligibility for nominations

People would be able to nominate for election to the Local First Nations Voices if they:

- are a First Nations person
- are enrolled to vote on the State Electoral Roll
- provide a confirmation of Aboriginality certificate, or if a certificate cannot be provided, a statutory declaration
- specify whether they are nominating for the Local First Nations Voice in which they reside or the Local First Nations Voice where their country is.
- are not in prison or restricted by bail, parole or other legal mechanisms from travelling within South Australia.



- have not have been convicted of a serious criminal offence (as defined in the draft Bill) within the last 10 years
- not have been disqualified from acting as a director of a company under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

Elections

Elections would be held at the same time as State elections (after an initial election of the first Local First Nations Voice). A person will be eligible to vote in a Local First Nations Voice election for where they reside if they are a First Nations person and on the State Electoral Roll.

Next steps

The Commissioner for First Nations Voice will be visiting Aboriginal communities across the State to discuss the proposed model and to seek feedback.

Engagement on the draft Bill will be held from 17 November 2022 to 6 January 2023.

You can have your say via:

- yourSAy (<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au>)
- or by emailing: voicetosaparlamentsubmission@sa.gov.au
- for First Nations South Australians, [face-to-face engagement sessions](#) between mid-November to mid-December.

The draft Bill will then be refined based on feedback, ahead of introduction to State Parliament in 2023.

Learn more

Read the Legislation explained – First Nations Voice Bill 2022.

Visit the AGD website for more: www.agd.sa.gov.au/aboriginal-affairs-and-reconciliation/commissioner-for-first-nations-voice

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT



Elections held for multiple regions



Equal number of men & women elected



LOCAL FIRST NATIONS VOICE



Talk about local issues & share views



Collaborate with public sector agencies, local government and other organisations



Two presiding members from each local voice region

Equal number of men & women



GOVERNMENT



Engage Ministers & Chief Executives



PARLIAMENT

- Entitled to be heard on Bills in Parliament
- Present reports
- Make annual address to Parliament