

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Voice to Parliament: Debunking 11 myths and misconceptions

<p>1. It will amount to a third chamber of Parliament and therefore impact parliamentary sovereignty, a fundamental element of our constitutional system of government.</p>	<p>The proposal is a Voice to Parliament, not in Parliament. The passing of legislation continues to be by our elected representatives in the House of Representatives and the Senate, as prescribed by the Constitution. The proposed Constitutional amendment states that the Voice “may make representations” to Parliament. It will be up to Parliament to decide what it does with those representations. The proposed Voice to Parliament is a very conservative change to our Constitution.</p>
<p>2. It will be a lawyers’ picnic, and lead to lots of High Court challenges.</p>	<p>How Parliament responds (or does not respond) to any representations made by the Voice would be non-justiciable – that is, it could not be subject to any court challenge. This is because the courts have always been reluctant to interfere with the internal workings of Parliament.</p>
<p>3. It will not help to close the gap or have a positive impact on the lives of First Nations peoples.</p>	<p>The Voice will provide advice to the Parliament on proposed laws affecting First Nations peoples. Accordingly, Parliament will be better-informed about the impact of the proposed laws on First Nations peoples, and can amend where appropriate. A better-informed Parliament is likely to lead to better laws that will have a positive impact on First Nations lives.</p>
<p>4. It will give First Nations peoples special rights.</p>	<p>The Constitutional Expert Group comprising nine experts (including former High Court judge Kenneth Hayne) and chaired by the Commonwealth Attorney-General has advised that a First Nations Voice will not give First Nations peoples special rights. All Australians have the right to make representations to Parliament, which is guaranteed by the constitutional Implied Freedom of Political Communication. The First Nations Voice is simply a permanent one.</p>

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

What can I do?

Referendums don't come around often, so it's important to talk to your friends, family and colleagues and follow the campaigns on social media. Kitchen table conversation are what will make the difference, so use the information available to you to speak to those in your family and friendship groups.

For the change to the Constitution to be successful we need every Australian to understand why constitutional recognition through a Voice is so important and that voting YES is simple, practical, fair, and unifying for the whole country.

You can also find out more and sign up as a volunteer for the campaigns outlined below that are currently operating ahead of the referendum later this year.



Indigenous Constitutional Recognition through a Voice



SCAN ME

20 Minute Learning Journey

[A Voice to Parliament - Overview
\(wpengine.com\)](https://wpengine.com)



RESOURCES

- Australian Government – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice - <https://voice.gov.au/>
- Australian Government – The Voice Community Toolkit - <https://voice.gov.au/community-toolkit>
- Uluru Statement from the Heart - <https://ulurustatement.org/>
- Common Ground - <https://www.commonground.org.au/>
- Yes 23 - <https://yes23.com.au/>
- Together, Yes - <https://togetheryes.com.au/>
- Recognise a better way - <https://www.upholdandrecognise.com/>
- Fair Australia - <https://www.fairaustralia.com.au/>
- Referendum Disclosure for Members - https://www.aec.gov.au/Parties_and_Representatives/referendum_disclosure/