



## Voice to Parliament Factsheet

The *Uluru Statement from the Heart's* call for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament is a fair and practical way to deliver meaningful constitutional recognition and reform.

A Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a say on the policies and laws that impact their lives.

A successful referendum to enable a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution will be a unifying moment in Australian history, similar to the 1967 referendum.

A Voice to Parliament can deliver long-lasting systemic change and will reflect the diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures across Australia.

The constitutional protection for a Voice to Parliament is important as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative bodies have been created and abolished through changes in governments and political priorities. An example of this was the abolition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), which the responsible government minister later admitted was a mistake.

A Voice to Parliament has been supported by key legal figures across Australia, including two former Chief Justices of the High Court of Australia, Murray Gleeson and Robert French. They both rejected the idea that a Voice to Parliament would be a 'third chamber of Parliament', with Gleeson stating that a Voice 'hardly seems revolutionary'.

Whilst the precise model for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament is still being developed, current proposals suggest that it will be a representative body that will advise the parliament but will not veto or block legislation.

A Voice to Parliament will ensure that the parliament and government is better and more appropriately informed in its approach to Indigenous affairs policy and law-making. This will lead to better outcomes for Indigenous people and more efficient use of government funds.

A Voice to Parliament is a fair, safe and practical reform that will make a real difference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and make Australia a fairer, stronger country. It's time we made it happen.