

# This is an opportunity for unity.

We can't change our history, but we can move forward together.

On 14 October, Australians will vote in a referendum about the Voice to Parliament.

We want to help our community participate respectfully in the discussion, learn about the benefits of a successful referendum, and understand what writing 'Yes' means when it's time to vote.

## What is the Voice to Parliament?

The Voice to Parliament is an independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander group of people appointed to give advice to government on decisions being made about them. The Voice to Parliament would help to guide Government policy but would not have the power to make laws.

It is being proposed to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more input into decisions that impact them. Establishing a First Nations Voice to Parliament was one of the recommendations in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Read the full statement overleaf.

## How will a Voice to Parliament be established?

If the referendum is successful, Parliament will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the broader public to design the Voice. A legislative bill would then be developed and introduced to Parliament. This bill may be referred to a parliamentary committee to suggest ways to improve it. Parliament decides if it becomes law. Once this happens, the legislation comes into effect and the work to set up the Voice begins.

## What is the benefit of a Yes vote to all Australians?

The referendum is an opportunity for unity.

Voting Yes will be a step towards equality, helping close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people currently live shorter lives, with worse health outcomes, get paid lower wages and have reduced access to infrastructure and education when compared with non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Voting Yes will recognise our First Peoples' unique culture, heritage, history and connection to this land – and enable us to more readily listen to and learn from the oldest continuing living culture in the world.

Voting Yes will help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people share their experiences and local knowledge to deliver better health, education and housing outcomes in communities right across Australia – for the benefit of all Australians.

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## Why is the City of Melbourne supporting the Yes campaign?

The City of Melbourne is committed to responding to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for voice, treaty and truth.

We believe we cannot be a city for all people unless all people have a say in decisions that impact them. The Voice to Parliament provides a clear avenue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have their say.

A city that says Yes makes a powerful statement about who we are, and what we are collectively capable of. We want to take a step forward, together. That's why we're saying Yes.

## Do I have to vote in the referendum?

If you're enrolled for elections, you're enrolled for referendums too – which means you must vote in this referendum.

Your vote matters. Ensure your enrolment details are up to date at [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au)

## Where can I get more information?

As the closest level of government to the people, local councils have an important and practical role to play in helping people make an informed decision about the Voice to Parliament.



For more information, scan the QR code or visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice)

Authorised by Sally Capp in Melbourne on behalf of Melbourne City Council

**VOICE**  
TO PARLIAMENT

