



HEALTH CONSUMERS'
COUNCIL

The Voice 23

Lunch and learn session for health consumers



Acknowledgement of Country



Source: Snapshots by Narelle Henry

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge that they have occupied and cared for this country over countless generations and we celebrate their continuing contribution to the life of this region.







Today's session

Today we'll cover

- § Brief overview of Health Consumers' Council
- § What is The Voice to Parliament?
- § Background to The Voice to Parliament – including Uluru Statement from the Heart
- § What is expected to be the impact of The Voice to Parliament?
- § What we can do next

Feel free to use any of the information in these slides with people in your networks – share them as you wish

HCC VALUES

					
RESPECT	KINDNESS	EQUITY	WORKING TOGETHER	INTEGRITY	EMPOWERMENT



HEALTH CONSUMERS'
COUNCIL

About Health Consumers' Council



Our Purpose

To increase the capacity of all people to influence the future direction of health care and to make informed choices

Our Vision

Equitable, person-centred quality healthcare for all Western Australians



Individual Advocacy



Engagement



Systemic Advocacy





What is the Voice to Parliament? Where's the detail?

The Government has outlined how it will go about setting up the voice – based on these Design Principles

- A. The Voice will give independent advice to Parliament and Government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- B. The Voice will be chosen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people based on wishes of local communities
- C. The Voice will be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, gender balanced and include youth
- D. The Voice will be empowering, community-led, inclusive, respectful and culturally informed
- E. The Voice will be accountable and transparent
- F. The Voice will work alongside existing organisations and traditional structures
- G. The Voice will not have a program delivery function
- H. The Voice will not have a veto power

<https://voice.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-06/design-principles-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-voice.pdf>

<https://www.recwa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Learn-About-the-Voice-to-Parliament-A4-FINAL.pdf>



Why do we need a Voice enshrined in the constitution?

1. Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of the land
2. Since 1967 federal governments have required a mechanism like a voice to support its work in the Indigenous policy space. The government needs to know who to talk to on issues that affect First Nations people.

If the Voice is in the Constitution, it can only be abolished by another referendum,

This gives it independence and stability, so it can fulfil its function of speaking about matters that might not be politically popular.

- National Conference of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Councillors (1972)
- National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (1973-1977)
- National Aboriginal Conference (1977-1985)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (1989-2005)
- Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (1990-2000)
- National Indigenous Council (2005-2008)
- National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (2009-2019)
- Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council (2013-2019)

ABOLISHED

VOICE TRUTH To Parliament TREATY

Play (k)

Voice, Treaty, Truth

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=HZU7JYCS40Y&T=1S](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZU7JYCS40Y&T=1S)



WA leaders on The Voice to Parliament

<https://youtu.be/feQ7ls15Ad8?si=S5YoVNkhD7a6cgkx>

Full playlist

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN4NdotJsoOd5KqimVioC2bBIYTrbCreW>





How will The Voice impact on health?

“Within the first 18 to 20 months of the pandemic, Aboriginal people had six times fewer cases than non-Indigenous people did. How did they do it?

They had a voice.”





Culturally safe maternity care delivered by ACCHOs can save \$4,810 per mother-baby pair



How would The Voice impact on health?

WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW ISN'T WORKING

"Significant improvements in the efficiency of the Australian health system, while maintaining existing spend on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing would generate significant savings."

"Federal expenditure on health care functions has doubled over the last decade but outcomes have not improved at the corresponding rate."

Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
health:

2.3x

Burden
of disease

2x

Expenditure
per person

Burden of disease is 2.3 times that of non-Indigenous Australians and expenditure per person is 2 times that of non-Indigenous Australians

https://www.lowitja.org.au/content/Document/LowitjaInstitute-VoiceGovtExpendReportLn_Sept23.pdf

2023 REFERENDUM

14 OCTOBER 2023

The question

A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?

[See the proposed new chapter of the Constitution](#) →

[2023 referendum timetable](#) →

Referendum on proposed Constitution alteration

DIRECTIONS TO VOTER

Write "YES" or "NO" in the
space provided opposite
the question set out below.

A PROPOSED LAW:

There would be a description
of the proposed constitutional
change here.

DO YOU APPROVE
THIS PROPOSED
ALTERATION?

WRITE
"YES" OR "NO"

Voting open now, or on Sat 14 Oct



What next?



Contact us

- Health Consumers' Council WA
 - www.hconc.org.au
 - info@hconc.org.au
 - Tel: 08 9221 3422
- Clare Mullen, Executive Director
 - Clare.mullen@hconc.org.au
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/claremullen/>
- HCC monthly e-news – sign up
<https://www.hconc.org.au/resources/enews/>
- HCC on social media
 - HCC Facebook page (~2600 followers)
<https://www.facebook.com/hconcwa/>
 - LinkedIn
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/health-consumers'-council/>