

Yes Case

- The Voice was recommended after a years-long engagement with Indigenous communities across Australia.
- Indigenous people should have a say in policies that affect them.
- If the government listens to Indigenous people as it creates policies about them, the policies will be better.
- When governments listen to people, they use funding more effectively. So the Voice would save money.
- The Voice would advise government on practical steps to improve Indigenous health, education, employment and housing.
- Future governments wouldn't be able to remove the Voice without another referendum, meaning it could offer unwelcome advice without fear of being shut down.
- The Voice would be gender-equal and include youth members, meaning more voices from Indigenous communities will be heard.
- Parliament, and by extension the Australian people, would still hold the ultimate say over what becomes law.
- It has been carefully devised and given the green light by legal experts.
- Fixed terms mean representatives will always be accountable.
- The Voice would be a good mechanism through which to negotiate Truth and Treaty processes with the Commonwealth.

No Case

- It's symbolic, and fixing systemic issues facing Indigenous communities would require a body with actual power.
- More bureaucracy will not help Indigenous Australians in disadvantaged communities to close the gap and achieve reconciliation.
- Governments can ignore its advice if they don't like what it tells them.
- No issue is beyond its scope.
- The Voice adds race to the constitution, and enshrining a body for only one group means permanently dividing Australians.
- Australians are being asked to sign a blank cheque, given key details about how the Voice would operate will be decided after the referendum.
- Because the Voice will be designed by parliament, future governments could change or sideline it.
- It will be a first step to more radical changes like financial reparations for colonisation and dispossession.
- It would be costly and bureaucratic - an additional fiscal burden on top of existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative bodies.
- Indigenous people already have a voice via an unprecedented level of Indigenous representation in parliament.
- Truth and Treaty should come before the Voice.

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