

[Federal government announces wording of referendum question for Voice to Parliament](#)

Date: 24 March 2023

Source: [Prime Minister of Australia](#) 

Abstract:

The Prime Minister has announced the wording for the referendum for a constitutional voice to Parliament for first nations people.

The question which will be put to the Australian people by referendum will be:

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?

If passed, a new chapter will be enacted in the Constitution, which will be:

Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

129 original and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.

The government will introduce the Constitution Alteration Bill by the end of March 2023 and hopes to pass the legislation through the Parliament by the end of June, with the referendum to be held between October and December 2023.