

## Sharing information about the Voice to Parliament Guide to presenting a Lunch & Learn.

We want to support the Western Australian community with sharing factual information about the Voice to Parliament with your family, friends, community, organisation and networks.

How to prepare:

- Ensure you have a device to stream videos hosted on Youtube and Vimeo.
- Download the *Learn about the Voice to Parliament* handout for attendees.
- Read this guide, and reach out if you need more support. If you prefer, you are welcome to have your team or group tune into or attend one of our [upcoming Uluru Statement Community Briefings](#) instead.

### Setting up a safe space for yarning.

#### Seeking co-presenters

You may wish to find people to present with you. This could be a member of your RAP working committee, a member of your Aboriginal Advisory Group, or an ally. Try and prioritise putting First Nation voices first.

For large gatherings (100+) a Reconciliation WA staff member may be able to attend and help share information and answer questions. We may also be able to assist with finding a co-presenter. Please [reach out](#) if you expect to host a large gathering.

There may be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people in your organisation or community group who would like to speak at the session. It's important to create that opportunity, but please reach out to everyone in your organisation well before the presentation. Sometimes, First Nations people are called upon in the moment to speak on behalf of all Aboriginal peoples. Singling out people in this way is not a culturally safe practice. Where appropriate – Aboriginal people should be paid for their services and knowledge.

#### Creating a safe space for open discussions or a Q&A session

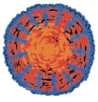
Be clear with attendees about the purpose of the Lunch & Learn before the session (in the calendar invite for example), and when beginning the session.

For example, this session is:

- Open to anyone wanting to learn more about the Voice.
- Focused on sharing factual information about the Uluru Statement From The Heart, and the proposed Voice to Parliament.
- Not about telling people how to vote.
- A safe space to share ideas and questions.
- A space where everyone will be respected, even if opinions differ.

#### Create spaces for mob-only de-briefs

Even the most respectful conversations about these topics can be triggering for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who are once again having to experience national debates regarding their human rights and wellbeing. Create safe spaces for Aboriginal attendees to debrief together after the session if they choose, and communicate this in advance so they feel safe.



## Supporting materials

As well as the Learn About The Voice To Parliament Flyer, we have a number of other supporting materials you might like to use at your presentation.

### Uluru Statement From the Heart

#### Core Flute Boards

Borrow our A0 core flute boards, or get in touch with us for the print files to have your own printed.



#### Federal Government Voice Information Flyers

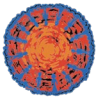
We have lots of flyers and booklets from the Government on the upcoming referendum and the Voice to Parliament which we can distribute to you.

#### Uluru Statement From The Heart Flyer

We also have A5 printouts of the Uluru Statement From the Heart which you can order, or request the print file from us to print your own.

We may also be able to provide other materials such as stickers and shirts.

[Get in touch](#) with us to enquire about accessing additional supporting materials.



## Our three Lunch and Learn formats

While we've called these Lunch & Learns, we've set out three different lengths which could be added to any gathering - whether that be a team stand-up or toolbox meeting, committee meeting, or a morning tea. Explore the agendas below to find one that suits your purpose.

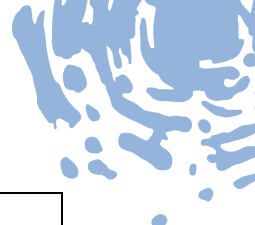
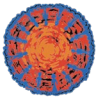
### Suggested Agendas and speaking notes

#### 15-Minute Presentation

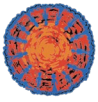
**This presentation covers:**

- What the Voice to Parliament is.
- What the Uluru Statement From The Heart is, and how it came to be.
- Highlighting WA Leaders' calls for support.

Agenda and resources	Speaking Notes
Acknowledgement of Country / Welcome to Country	<p><b>Acknowledge the Country you are on, or invite a Traditional Owner to conduct a Welcome to Country.</b></p> <p>You can find out more about these practices at <a href="#">Reconciliation Australia</a> and <a href="#">Acknowledge This!</a></p> <p><b>Welcomes and Acknowledgements are simple but meaningful ways Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can demonstrate respect towards one another.</b></p>
Scene setting. 3 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In late 2023, we're all going to have the opportunity to vote in a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution.</i></li> <li>• <i>The proposed Voice is a representative advisory body that provides advice on laws made specifically for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Voice is the first reform proposed by the Uluru Statement From The Heart.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>At this point you may like to discuss:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Your organisations views or your personal views towards the Voice. (Are you committed to sharing factual information in the lead up to the referendum? Do you publicly support the Uluru Statement From The Heart? Do you support the Uluru Statement From the Heart and want to encourage your stakeholders to vote yes?)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Every organisation, group, and conversation is different - there are many ways to advocate for the Uluru Statement From The Heart or support reconciliation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Between 2016 and 2017, twelve Aboriginal-led dialogues engaged approximately 1200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to explore structural reform and constitutional change.</i></li> <li>• <i>The regional dialogues chose their own representatives to attend the First Nations Constitutional Convention at Uluru in 2017. By an overwhelming consensus, more than 250 delegates adopted the Uluru Statement From The Heart</i></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>This video explains the process which created the Uluru Statement From The Heart.</i></li></ul>
Play Video: “What is Voice, Treaty and Truth?” 7 minutes.	
Choose one video to play from playlist: “WA Leaders on the Voice to Parliament.” 2-3 minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Many WA Aboriginal Leaders, and allies who have worked alongside them for many years, support the Voice to Parliament.</i></li><li>• <i>It’s important to remember that there are a few voices being profiled in the media at the moment which may not represent the views of the majority. It’s important for us to listen to and seek out the voices and opinions of many Aboriginal peoples in our country when it comes to reforms like this.</i></li><li>• <i>Reconciliation WA have gathered the views of some of these WA leaders.</i></li><li>• <i>Here’s one of their videos.</i></li></ul>
Encourage further reading, questions and conversations. 3 minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Thanks for being here today to listen and learn more.</i></li><li>• <i>This was just a short presentation, and there’s a lot you can learn about The Voice, and the Uluru Statement From The Heart.</i></li><li>• <i>Please read the handout I’ve given you from Reconciliation WA, which also lists other places you can go for more information.</i></li><li>• <i>We have a few minutes, would anyone like to ask a question?</i></li></ul> <p><b>Refer to the end of this document for common questions and answers, and further guidance for running a Q&amp;A session.</b></p>

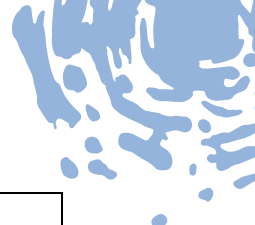
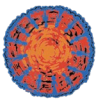


## 30-Minute Presentation

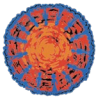
### This presentation covers:

- What the Voice to Parliament is.
- What the Uluru Statement From the Heart is, and how it came to be.
- The experience of Aboriginal peoples in Australia since colonisation.
- The strong history of Aboriginal advocacy.
- Highlighting WA Leaders' calls for support.
- An overview of your personal, your organisations, or your community group's approach to supporting reconciliation.

Agenda and resources	Speaking Notes
Acknowledgement of Country / Welcome to Country	<p>Acknowledge the Country you are on, or invite a Traditional Owner to conduct a Welcome to Country.</p> <p>You can find out more about these practices at <a href="#">Reconciliation Australia</a> and <a href="#">Acknowledge This!</a></p> <p>Welcomes and Acknowledgements are simple but meaningful ways Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can demonstrate respect towards one another.</p>
Scene setting. 5 Minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In late 2023, we're all going to have the opportunity to vote in a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution.</i></li> <li>• <i>The proposed Voice is a representative advisory body that provides advice on laws made specifically for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Voice is the first reform proposed by the Uluru Statement From The Heart.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>At this point you may like to discuss:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Your organisation's views or your personal views towards the Voice. (Are you committing to sharing factual information in the lead up to the referendum? Do you publicly support the Uluru Statement From The Heart? Do you support the Uluru Statement From the Heart and want to encourage your stakeholders to vote yes?)</b></li> <li>• <b>Your organisations commitment or your personal commitment to reconciliation. (Do you have a RAP or working towards one? Do you have a Diversity and Inclusion Plan or Policy?)</b></li> <li>• <b>The values of your organisation, community group, or your personal values, which align with the Uluru Statement From The Heart (Respect, Inclusion, Collaboration etc.)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Every organisation, group, and conversation is different - there are many ways to advocate for the Uluru Statement From The Heart or support reconciliation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The idea behind the Voice is that by ensuring that policies for Aboriginal people are guided and informed by Aboriginal peoples themselves, there is a much greater chance of long term, effective change, compared to what we have</i></li> </ul>



	<p><i>experienced in the past and what we are currently experiencing.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Uluru Statement From The Heart, and the Voice, are not new proposals. Between 2016 and 2017, twelve Aboriginal-led dialogues engaged approximately 1200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to explore structural reform and constitutional change.</i></li> <li><i>Each regional dialogue included a representative sample of about 100 First Nations peoples drawn from local traditional owners, Aboriginal community-based organisations and Aboriginal leaders.</i></li> <li><i>The regional dialogues chose their own representatives to attend the First Nations Constitutional Convention at Uluru in 2017. By an overwhelming consensus, more than 250 delegates adopted the Uluru Statement From the Heart.</i></li> <li><i>This video explores the experience of Aboriginal peoples in Australia since colonisation, the strong history of Aboriginal advocacy, the process behind the Uluru Statement From the Heart and the calls for Voice, Treaty and Truth.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Play Video:  <i>“Uluru Statement From The Heart Background Video”.</i>  <i>19 Minutes.</i></p>	
<p>Choose one video to play from playlist:  <i>“WA Leaders on the Voice to Parliament.”</i>  <i>2-3 minutes.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Many WA Aboriginal Leaders, and allies who have worked alongside them for many years, support the Voice to Parliament.</i></li> <li><i>It’s important to remember that there are a few voices being profiled in the media at the moment which may not represent the views of the majority. It’s important for us to listen to and seek out the voices and opinions of many Aboriginal peoples in our country when it comes to reforms like this.</i></li> <li><i>Reconciliation WA have gathered the views of some of these WA leaders.</i></li> <li><i>Here’s one of their videos.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Encourage further reading, questions and conversations.  <i>3 minutes.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Thanks for being here today to listen and learn more.</i></li> <li><i>This presentation covered a bit of ground, but there’s more you can learn about The Voice, and the Uluru Statement From The Heart.</i></li> <li><i>Please read the handout I’ve given you from Reconciliation WA, which also lists other places you can go for more information.</i></li> <li><i>We have a few minutes, would anyone like to ask a question?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Refer to the end of this document for common questions and answers, and further guidance for running a Q&amp;A session.</b></p>



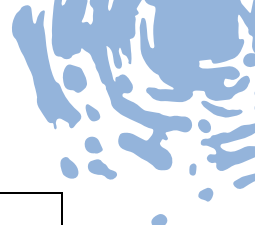
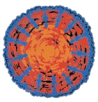
## 60-Minute Presentation

### This presentation covers:

- What the Voice to Parliament is.
- What the Uluru Statement From the Heart is, and how it came to be.
- The experience of Aboriginal peoples in Australia since colonisation.
- The strong history of Aboriginal advocacy.
- Highlighting WA Leaders' calls for support.
- An overview of your personal, your organisations, or your community group's approach to supporting reconciliation.
- An extended discussion and Q&A session.

Agenda and resources	Speaking Notes
Acknowledgement of Country / Welcome to Country	<p>Acknowledge the Country you are on, or invite a Traditional Owner to conduct a Welcome to Country.</p> <p>You can find out more about these practices at <a href="#">Reconciliation Australia</a> and <a href="#">Acknowledge This!</a></p> <p><b>Welcomes and Acknowledgements are simple but meaningful ways Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can demonstrate respect towards one another.</b></p>
Scene setting. 5 Minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In late 2023, we're all going to have the opportunity to vote in a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution.</i></li> <li>• <i>The proposed Voice is a representative advisory body that provides advice on laws made specifically for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Voice is the first reform proposed by the Uluru Statement From The Heart.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>At this point you may like to discuss:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Your organisation's views or your personal views towards the Voice. (Are you committing to sharing factual information in the lead up to the referendum? Do you publicly support the Uluru Statement From The Heart? Do you support the Uluru Statement From the Heart and want to encourage your stakeholders to vote yes?)</b></li> <li>• <b>Your organisation's commitment or your personal commitment to reconciliation. (Do you have a RAP or working towards one? Do you have a Diversity and Inclusion Plan or Policy?)</b></li> <li>• <b>The values of your organisation, community group, or your personal values, which align with the Uluru Statement From The Heart (Respect, Inclusion, Collaboration etc.)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Every organisation, group, and conversation is different - there are many ways to advocate for the Uluru Statement From The Heart or support reconciliation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The idea behind the Voice is that by ensuring that policies for Aboriginal people are guided and informed by Aboriginal peoples themselves, there is a much greater chance of long term, effective change, compared to what we have experienced in the past.</i></li> </ul>





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<p>Play Video: "Uluru Statement Community Briefing" 40 minutes.</p>	
<p>Choose one video to play from playlist: "WA Leaders on the Voice to Parliament." 2-3 minutes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Many WA Aboriginal Leaders, and allies who have worked alongside them for many years, support the Voice to Parliament.</i></li><li>• <i>It's important to remember that there are a few voices being profiled in the media at the moment which may not represent the views of the majority. It's important for us to listen to and seek out the voices and opinions of many Aboriginal peoples in our country when it comes to reforms like this.</i></li><li>• <i>Reconciliation WA have gathered the views of some of these WA leaders.</i></li><li>• <i>Here's one of their videos.</i></li></ul>
<p>Encourage further reading, questions and conversations. 10 Minutes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Thanks for being here today to listen and learn more.</i></li><li>• <i>This presentation covered a bit of ground, but there's more you can learn about The Voice, and the Uluru Statement From The Heart.</i></li><li>• <i>Please read the handout I've given you from Reconciliation WA, which also lists other places you can go for more information.</i></li><li>• <i>We've set aside some time to have a discussion together.</i></li></ul>





Refer to the end of this document for common questions and answers, and further guidance for running a Q&A session.
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## Holding a Q&A session.

We encourage you to open up a Q&A session at the end, to support those wanting to learn more. We've listed some common questions and their answers below to help you facilitate that session.

If someone asks you something you're not sure of, it's ok to say that. This is a learning opportunity for everyone. Check out further [Q&A's](#) at our website, or feel free to get in touch with us if you need help you with a response to get back to them at a later time.

Some questions you can ask your group to encourage discussions:

- *Did anything new come up for you today that you didn't know before?*
- *What sort of things have you been hearing, either in the media or through other people, that concern you?*
- *What have you heard today that stood out to you the most?*
- *What could be the positive outcomes to the wider community from a Voice to Parliament?*
- *What's one thing you could advocate for the Uluru Statement From The Heart.*

If no one asks any questions, it can be helpful for attendees for you as a facilitator to call out a couple questions you know people may be thinking about, but not wanting to bring up.

You could also offer your time outside of the session if people have questions they want to ask more privately. Otherwise, direct people to our website to find answers on their own: <https://www.recwa.org.au/voice-to-parliament-faqs/>

It's worth noting that the *Learn about the Voice to Parliament* handout answers many common questions people have about the Voice.

## Common Questions and Answers

*The Voice to Parliament will 'divide Australians by race' or 'insert race into the Constitution.'*

The concept of race is already in [section 51\(xxvi\) of the Constitution](#), which gives the Commonwealth Parliament the power to legislate for "people of any race for whom it is deemed to be necessary to make special laws".

That section was originally included so as to give effect to the [White Australia Policy](#), and Aboriginal people were excluded from it. But since the section was amended in 1967 it has included the power to make such laws "for people [...] of the aboriginal race in any State".

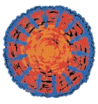
Its existence and breadth underscores the need for a mechanism – the Voice – to listen to the very people to whom those laws would apply.

*Do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples support the Voice?*

Like any community of people, there is a diversity of views amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, however there is significant levels of support among them for the Voice.

First, Indigenous support is demonstrated by the deliberative processes that sits behind the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This involved more than 1,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country. From this process, delegates were able to arrive at a national consensus position, prioritising the reforms of Voice, towards Makarrata (Treaty and Truth).

Second, polling confirms the Voice continues to receive overwhelming Indigenous support. Two polls from 2023 confirm that 80% and 83% of Indigenous people support the Voice.



Aboriginal organisations across the country have indicated their support for the Voice. This includes land-based representative bodies such as the Northern Territory Land Councils, Indigenous Desert Alliance and the Kimberley Land Council, and peak service organisations such as the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association.

### *We shouldn't change the constitution.*

The Australian Constitution is the set of rules by which Australia is governed. It is up to the Australian people to decide if the Constitution should change, and the only way to change the Constitution is by holding a referendum. Since the Constitution was first drafted, we've decided as a nation 8 times to change it for the better. The Constitution is built to be changed as and when it needs to be; a country can't live by the exact same rules for 200, 300, or 800 years. But it's still an important decision that requires the input of the nation - that's why referendums exist.

### *Why do we need to put the Voice in the Constitution?*

The Voice has a number of objectives, one of which is the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of the land. First Nations people, through the Uluru Statement from the Heart, indicated they wished for recognition in the form of the Voice. If we are serious about recognition, we should do it in a way that accords with the wishes of those to be recognised.

The second part of the answer relates to the operation of the Voice. Each of the five previous First Nation advisory bodies which have been set up by parliamentary processes were abolished by successive governments cancelling programs, policies and investment with the stroke of a pen. This chopping and changing according to election cycles has contributed to the ongoing disadvantage experienced by many First Nations people. If the Voice was enshrined in the Constitution, it could not be abolished without significant public scrutiny, giving the government of the day a strong incentive to work with First Nations people and ensure their advice and input is heard.

### *We need to focus on practical measures. How will this close the Gap?*

Efforts to 'close the gap' for Aboriginal people have been limited by the lack of listening to Aboriginal people - effectively an Aboriginal Voice to Parliament. Of course there is no way that the Voice will close any gap immediately. But by ensuring that policies are guided and informed by Aboriginal peoples themselves, there is a much greater chance of long term, effective change.

### *This money should be spent on communities instead.*

Over the past 200 years, Governments have been inconsistent and have failed to 'close the gap' despite significant spend, with the absence of a Voice. Aboriginal communities will be able to work closely with governments to better direct funding where it is needed most, and have greater impact.

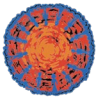
### *Why not establish Treaty first?*

Each proposal in the Uluru Statement From The Heart (Voice, Treaty, and Truth) is as important as the other, and they are currently being advanced by Aboriginal peoples with local, state and federal governments. A Voice will support treaty making across the states and territories, while also achieving positive outcomes in education, health and housing, without waiting what could be decades for a treaty settlement.

### *We need more detail to cast a vote.*

There's often a lot of confusion about this question, which is because there are two types of detail that people talk about.

The first is the detail about the constitutional change. This is the bit Australians are being asked to vote on, and the bit that is "permanent" (subject to a future referendum). There is heaps of detail in relation to the constitutional change, including the wording of the amendment, the referendum question, the explanatory memorandum to the amendment, a parliamentary inquiry's report, and the government has even taken the extraordinary route of releasing the solicitor-general's advice on the legal soundness of the amendment.



## ReconciliationWA

The second is the detail about what the legislation establishing the “nuts and bolts” of the Voice will look like. To be clear, this detail is not part of the constitutional amendment – and it is entirely normal for constitutions to leave this type of detail to be worked out in future by the parliament. It would be misleading to release the full detail of the Voice, because this detail would need to be passed through parliament, and would be subject to future change.

However, there is some detail about what the Voice will look like. The government has taken the sensible option of indicating what it will do following a successful referendum, and how it will go about setting up the Voice. It has worked with the Referendum Working Group to finalise a set of design principles that provide the outline of what the voice will look like – how it will represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country, what functions it will have, and how it will be accountable.