

Referendum question, as proposed:

Do you support an alteration to the Constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?

The words to be inserted in the Constitution are proposed to be:

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Peoples of Australia.¹

- 1. There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.*
- 2. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to Parliament and the Executive Government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.*
- 3. The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to the composition, functions, powers and procedures of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.²*

¹ The Constitutional Expert Group advised the Referendum Working Group that it considered that this introductory sentence could be included in the draft constitutional amendment put forward by the Prime Minister at Garma on 30 July 2022 without giving rise to any legal concerns. The Group ‘agreed that introductory language of this kind would be appropriate in providing a succinct explanation for the enactment of the provision and clearly link the provision to constitutional recognition’: *Referendum Working Group – Summary of second tranche of advice from the Constitutional Expert Group*, 2 February 2023.

² These draft provisions are as stated in The Prime Minister’s *Address to Garma Festival, Arnhem Land*, 30 July 2022.