



**Buddhist Council of NSW**

*Working for the Buddhist Community*

## **RESOURCES FOR UNDERSTANDING THE REFERENDUM**

Commonwealth government resources	1
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See also *Links to resources on referendum in community languages* at [buddhistcouncil.org/uluru-project](https://buddhistcouncil.org/uluru-project)

**Commonwealth government resources <https://voice.gov.au/community-toolkit>**

The community toolkit provides resources to help you to learn more about the Voice and the referendum, including videos, posters, fact sheets, templates and more. You can download and share these resources with your communities and networks.

Videos

*What is the Voice referendum?*

In late 2023, all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over will vote on whether Australia should change its Constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

*Why is it happening now?*

In 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country came together and considered all the options for recognition. They wrote the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which called for a Voice for First Nations peoples to be added to the Constitution.

In 2022, the Australian Government agreed to have a referendum to let Australians decide whether to establish the Voice in the Constitution. This is why Australians are now being asked to vote on it.

**The Voice referendum will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**This document is available online at [Buddhistcouncil.org/uluru-project](https://buddhistcouncil.org/uluru-project)**

Resources

[Community toolkit poster \(English\)](#) PDF 1.2 MB

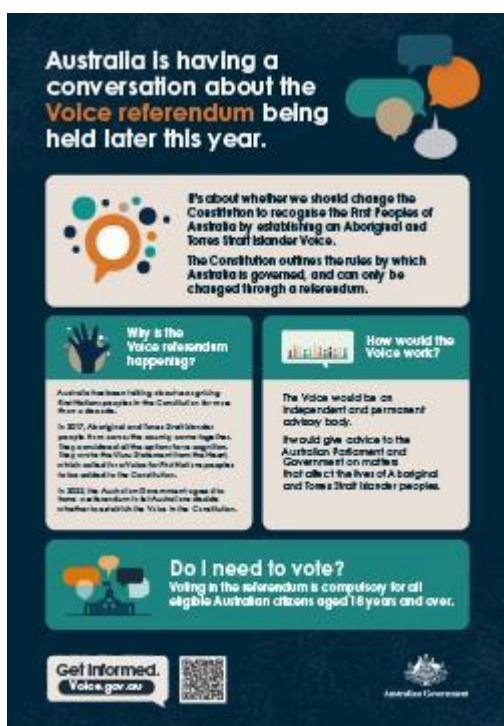


Available in

- English
- Chinese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Vietnamese

This poster provides a quick summary of key information about the Voice referendum. It can be downloaded and shared across your digital networks, or printed to display in your workplace or community area.

*Infographic - [Community toolkit infographic \(English\)](#) PDF 1.44 MB*



Available in

- English
- Chinese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Vietnamese

Download and share this infographic across your digital networks, or print to display in your workplace or community area. It explains what the Voice referendum is, why it's happening and who needs to vote.

Fact sheets - [Community toolkit fact sheet \(English\)](#) PDF 494.34 KB



Available in

- English
- Chinese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Vietnamese

This fact sheet contains more detailed information about the Voice.

[Community toolkit fact sheet \(Easy English\)](#) PDF 718.86 KB



Available in

- English
- Chinese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Vietnamese

This fact sheet is written in an easy-to-read way with pictures to explain some ideas.

Social media materials - [Community toolkit social media resource kit \(English\)](#) ZIP 2.46 MB

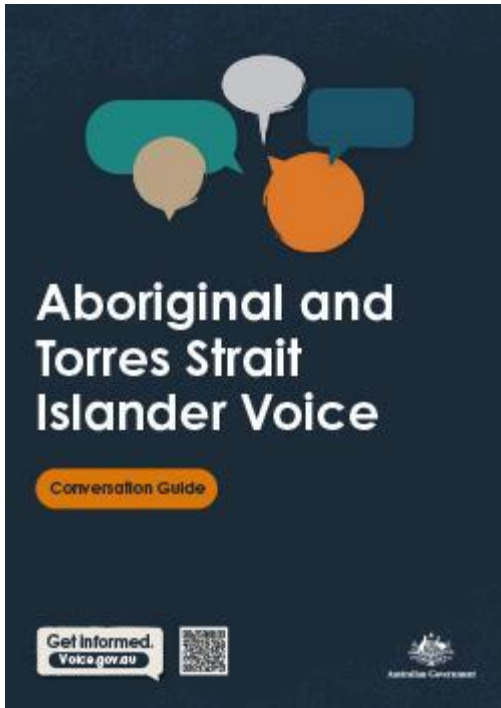


Available in

- English
- Chinese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Vietnamese

These materials, which include text and images, provide information about the Voice and the referendum. Share these on your social media channels or other digital networks.

Conversation guide [Community toolkit conversation guide \(English\)](#) PDF 6.24 MB



Available in  
English only

This conversation guide will support you to speak to people about the Voice and raise awareness of the upcoming referendum. Download and share the guide across your digital channels, or use it as a reference for factual information about the Voice.



Available in  
English  
Chinese  
Khmer  
Korean  
Vietnamese

Templates

Use this template to share information about the Voice and the referendum in your community newsletters.- [Community toolkit newsletter template \(English\)](#) PDF 25.83 MB



Hi [Insert Name],

Australia is having a conversation about the Voice referendum being held later this year.

It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Voting in the referendum is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over.

Be informed about the upcoming referendum, learn more about the Voice below.

**What is a referendum?**

- A referendum is when we vote on whether to change something in Australia's Constitution.
- The Constitution is a document that outlines the rules by which Australia is governed, and it can only be changed through a referendum.

**What is the Voice?**

- The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body.
- It would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have called for the Voice to be representative of First Nations peoples from across Australia, be gender balanced and involve young people.
- It would be accountable and transparent.

**When will the Voice referendum happen?**

- The referendum will take place in late 2023.

Be ready for the conversation, get informed at [Voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au).

Available in

- English
- Chinese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Vietnamese



Use this template to share information about the Voice and the referendum in your community newsletters



Hi [Insert Name],

Australia is having a conversation about the Voice referendum being held later this year.

It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Voting in the Voice referendum is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over.

We encourage you to get informed about the upcoming referendum and learn more about the Voice below.

**What is a referendum?**

A referendum is when we vote on whether to change something in Australia's Constitution. The Constitution is a document that outlines the rules by which Australia is governed, and it can only be changed through a referendum.

**Why is the Voice referendum happening?**

Australia has been talking about recognising First Nations peoples in the Constitution for more than a decade.

In 2022, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country came together. They considered all the options for recognition. They wrote the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which called for a Voice for First Nations peoples to be added to the Constitution.

In 2023, the Australian Government agreed to have a referendum to let Australians decide whether to establish the Voice in the Constitution.

Available in

- English
- Chinese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Vietnamese



Use this template to raise awareness about the Voice and the referendum to your communities and contacts via email. [Community toolkit email template](#) PDF 552.26 KB

Web banners (all languages)

These web banners contain simple messages about the Voice referendum and direct people to the Voice website for more information. They can be uploaded to your website to promote awareness of the Voice referendum.



## Audio message

An audio message which provides a short, spoken summary of key information about the Voice referendum. You can download the message in the five languages from <https://voice.gov.au/community-toolkit/translated-resources>.and share the message via messaging apps, email and other digital networks.

## Life without Barriers (www lwb.org.au)

Toolkit in 45 languages (not Tibetan) including video and fact sheet and social media resources can be downloaded from <https://www.lwb.org.au/social-policy/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/social-justice/voice-to-parliament/translated-toolkits>

## Australian Electoral Commission (https://aec.gov.au/referendums/)

### *English*

Completing the ballot paper <https://aec.gov.au/referendums/vote/completing-the-ballot-paper.html>

Referendum booklet <https://aec.gov.au/referendums/learn/your-official-referendum-booklet.html> (currently English only)

Your Answer matters podcast (<https://aec.gov.au/referendums/aec/podcast.html>)

Referendum Counting Process (video and text) <https://aec.gov.au/referendums/learn/the-count.html>

Enrol to vote (<https://aec.gov.au/referendums/enrol/enrol-to-vote.html>)

*34 community languages (not Tibetan)*

- A referendum fact sheet,
- Instructions on how to cast a formal vote in a referendum, and
- A disinformation awareness fact sheet.

(<https://aec.gov.au/referendums/learn/translated-information.html>)

Buddhist Council of NSW ([www.buddhistcouncil.org/uluru-project](http://www.buddhistcouncil.org/uluru-project))

### *Videos*

Visit the Buddhist Council website for videos on Buddhism, the Uluru Statement, Voice and referendum.

These include:

- \*Nith Chittasy, a Lao Buddhist in conversation with Jack Beeton, an Aboriginal man (8 mins)
- 3 minute version of the above
- \*Social media grabs from the above
- \*Buddhists speaking out about the Uluru Statement, Voice and referendum (3 mins)

\* Available with subtitles in Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Nepali, Thai, Tibetan (not fully checked), Vietnamese,

### *Links to other material*

The Buddhist Council website has links to other resources, including

- Buddhist perspectives on the Uluru Statement, Voice and referendum.
- Guide to resources in community languages

Visit [www.buddhistcouncil.org/uluru-project](http://www.buddhistcouncil.org/uluru-project)

### Other sources of information

Here are some further sources of information and opportunities for action that you may find useful. The first two have resources for campaigning for a Yes vote.

- <https://yes23.com.au>
- <https://www.multiculturalforvoice.org/why-the-voice>
- [Information Booklet: Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a Voice \(niaa.gov.au\)](http://niaa.gov.au)
- <https://ulurustatement.org/>
- <https://togetheryes.com.au/>
- <https://aec.gov.au/referendums/>
- <https://alliesforuluru.antar.org.au/>
- <https://youthoffthestreets.com.au/get-involved/walking-together-workshops-training/>