

VOICE REFERENDUM EXPLAINER

REFERENDUM QUESTION

On Saturday 14 October 2023 all Australian citizens over the age of 18 must vote by writing YES or NO to a single question which is:

“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?”

WHY DO YOU NEED TO VOTE?

The **Constitution** sets out how Australia is governed. It can only be changed through a national vote, called a **referendum**.

Your vote counts. To succeed, the proposed change to the Constitution must be approved by a **‘double majority’** – more than half of all voters in Australia and more than half the voters in at least four states.

HOW DO YOU VOTE?

On 14 October, you must vote at a **polling place** (such as a local school), like you would in a Federal election.

If you can't make it to a polling place on the day, you may be eligible to **vote early** either in person at a pre-polling booth or by post.

If you receive a **Postal Vote Application** in the post from a political party, be aware it may be returned to the political party first to access your personal information before being sent to the AEC.

For this reason, if you wish to apply for a postal vote, the AEC recommends that you deal directly with it and apply through the **AEC online application tool**.

The best source for reliable information about the referendum, including how to vote early, is the **Australian Electoral Commission**, or AEC (www.aec.gov.au).

IN CURTIN

- 1&2 Curtin Sustainability Fair at the Claremont Showground
- 3 Q&A with Newman College students in Churchlands
- 4 Joining Mosman Park Football Club as they announce their support for the Voice to Parliament
- 5 Canberra Debrief at the Claremont Hotel
- 6 Interview with UDub Radio at the University of Western Australia
- 7 At King's Park, launching the Pollie Pedal to support veterans
- 8 Meeting with the Forrest Research Foundation, Crawley
- 9 Celebrating World Cup fever with Subiaco AFC players
- 10 Beach clean-up at North Cottesloe during Plastic Free July
- 11 Meeting with Sam Kerr's first soccer club, the Western Knights in Mosman Park
- 12 Inspecting new automatic doors (improving accessibility) funded by the Stronger Communities Program at Good Sammy, Subiaco



Kate Chaney MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN



EDITION 5 SPRING 2023

A MESSAGE FROM KATE

Hello,

It's been an action-packed few months, with a number of projects coming to fruition. At home, we held two big community events – our Curtin Sustainability Fair and a 650 person Voice event. We've nearly finished our Curtin Pathway to Net Zero report, which I'm excited about launching shortly.

In Canberra, some of my committee work has started to deliver, with the 'You Win Some You Lose More' report coming out with strong recommendations on gambling reform.

I introduced into the House of Representatives my 'Restoring Trust' Bill, which includes 13 electoral reforms broadly supported by the crossbench, think tanks and civil society. As Helen Haines said, 'I defy any Parliamentarian to argue against these changes.'

Over the coming months, I will be: working with Government to try to get some of the Restoring Trust reforms into the Government's legislative agenda; considering how we might address some of the housing challenges being felt here and across the country; and of course, sharing information about the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament.

I would love to hear what you think about housing, either through our survey or by attending the workshops I will be holding to identify our housing goals here in Curtin and possible ways to get there. Scan the QR code below to participate.

Enjoy the start of the flowering season now that we are in Djilba, the first spring, or season of conception. Keep an eye out around Curtin for Koolbardi (maggpies) and Djidi Djidis (willy wagtails) as they get more protective of their newborns.

Regards

K Chaney

Kate Chaney MP

UPCOMING EVENTS

Curtin Housing Workshop
Wednesday 4 October, 5:30pm
Location to be confirmed

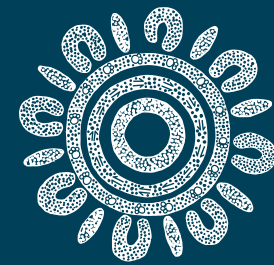
Community catch-up:
Saturday 7 October, 11:00am
Grassed area, City Beach foreshore

Keep up to date with upcoming events by scanning this QR code:



WHAT ARE WE VOTING TO CHANGE?

If successful, these words will be added to our Constitution:



Chapter IX—Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

129 Aboriginal 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**.

For 122 years, the Constitution has not acknowledged there were people here before European settlement. This addition provides that **recognition**, in the way requested by First Nations peoples in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The **body** will consist of representatives of First Nations people across the country.

The Voice has an **advisory** role only. It cannot make or block laws, manage programs or distribute funding – just advise government.

Executive means Ministers and departments, who make and implement policies.

This could include policies, programs and laws impacting First Nations people.

The detail of how the Voice works will be determined by the Parliament, so it can be adapted as needed.

HOUSING – WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

Housing access and affordability are key issues across Australia.

Young Australians, renters and mortgage holders are going through a particularly challenging time.

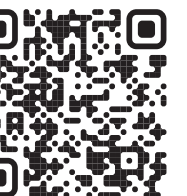
To better understand our community's priorities in relation to housing and how we might reach our goals, I am conducting a survey and will be holding two Curtin Housing Workshops, with the first in early October.

The first workshop will focus on understanding the housing issues and priorities for our Curtin community.

The second will look at policy solutions to achieve our goals, which will inform my advocacy in Canberra.



Scan this QR code to tell me what is important to you on housing or to register for my upcoming Curtin Housing Workshops.





RESTORING TRUST BILL

My 'Restoring Trust' Bill was introduced into the House of Representatives in early August.

The Bill proposes 13 much needed changes to the laws relating to elections in Australia. These changes would see far greater transparency, reduced financial influence and a more level playing field for candidates during elections.

I am looking forward to regular meetings with the Minister to push for these much-needed reforms

as part of a response to the inquiry into last year's Federal election by the parliamentary Electoral Matters committee (which I sit on).

With broad support from the parliamentary crossbench, democracy think tanks, civil society organisations and academics, I hope we can convince the Albanese Government to adopt elements of the Restoring Trust Bill.

IN CANBERRA

You Win Some, You Lose More

In June the Social Policy and Legal Affairs parliamentary committee released our 'You Win Some, You Lose More' report.

This report makes clear the predatory tactics that online betting companies use to entice Australians, particularly young men, into gambling and discusses the harm done and the current patchy approach to regulation.

I was really pleased with the 31 recommendations for reform we made in the report which include phasing out all advertising for online gambling.

The Government has until the end of the year to respond to these recommendations.

Robodebt

The Robodebt scandal was an abhorrent and unlawful pursuit of Australia's most vulnerable.

It also demonstrated the Australian Public Service is not functioning as it should, providing frank and fearless advice. Over the past few months, I have been advocating in Parliament for meaningful reform of the Public Service.

Within these calls for reform, I have been speaking about the need to rebuild the in-house expertise of Commonwealth agencies and end their reliance on consultants.

Curtin Sustainability Fair

About 2000 people attended our Curtin Sustainability Fair at the Claremont Showground in late June.

We had great feedback about the event. People said it was a fantastic opportunity to pick up practical tips and solutions to help recycle, manage waste and live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Thank you to all the volunteers, the 40+ stallholders and my team who made the Curtin Sustainability Fair such a success!

Youth Advisory Group



I recently held my last Youth Advisory Group meeting for 2023 with Year 11 students from schools across the Curtin electorate.

Over the past year, the Youth Advisors told me about the issues they care about and worked on projects relating to climate, mental health and refugees. At our last meeting, they made speeches on these issues and others.

The winning speech was by Tom from Scotch College, on Indigenous incarceration. I will deliver Tom's speech in Parliament in the coming months.

I've really appreciated the advice from the 2023 Youth Advisory Group - I've learned a lot about what matters to young people in Curtin. I look forward to my 2024 Youth Advisory Group, which will be made up of next year's Year 11s from all our schools.

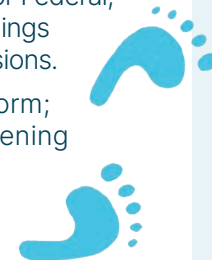


Curtin's Pathway to Net Zero report will be published in early November!

This comprehensive report, with input from more than 50 volunteers and experts, maps out the steps to make Curtin net zero. We identify policy priorities for Federal, State and local governments, and the best things community members can do to reduce emissions.

The Pathway focuses on five areas of reform; electricity, buildings, transport, urban greening and waste.

Scan the QR code above to find out more.



CURTIN CALENDAR 2024

We are starting to prepare for next year's Curtin Calendar and want local artists and photographers to submit their work!

Do you already have a photo or artwork of something you love about Curtin? Or can you create something new?

Please send your work for consideration to kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au by 20 October.



Small Business Forums

If you run a small business in Curtin and are interested in learning how upcoming Industrial Relations draft legislation might affect you, email kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au to sign up for my regular Small Business Forums.

Community Grants

If you are part of a community organisation that is looking for funding, sign up to hear when new grant opportunities arise on my website at www.katechaney.com.au/grants

Q&A ON THE VOICE



What is the voice?	The proposed Voice is a group of representatives from across Indigenous communities who will advise Parliament and the Executive Government on matters that affect their communities, such as health, education, jobs and housing.
Where did the Voice come from?	Every Prime Minister from both sides of politics since John Howard has supported constitutional recognition for First Nations peoples in some form. The Uluru Statement from the Heart was a historic statement adopted by First Nations leaders at a constitutional convention at Uluru in 2017. Signed by more than 250 Elders, it calls for recognition through the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution. The Voice to Parliament is in response to this request.
How will the Voice work?	The Constitution will say the Voice may advise Parliament and the Executive. Once the Voice is agreed, Parliament will be responsible for deciding the composition of the Voice and how it will operate.
Why should the Voice be in the Constitution?	Including the Voice in the Constitution will formally acknowledge the historic role of First Nations peoples in Australia. It will mean a Voice endures beyond political cycles. Its composition, powers and procedures will be determined and amended by Parliament to ensure its effectiveness.
Why won't there be more detail about the voice in the Constitution?	The Constitution is a place for ideas and principles. For example, the Constitution says the Federal Government can make laws about corporations. The Parliament passed the Corporations Act after it was debated in both Houses of Parliament. The Corporations Act is updated through parliamentary process as needed.
What can the voice achieve?	First Nations people are best placed to advise on what's working and what's not. A better-informed Parliament and Executive will be able to make better decisions on how to spend taxpayer money on programs to improve life outcomes for First Nations people.
What powers will the Voice have?	Only the power to 'make representations' (i.e. give advice) will be in the Constitution. It won't be able to allocate funding or create laws. Parliament and the Executive Government can decide whether to listen or act upon the advice provided. The Voice will advise on the issues that affect First Nations people the most.
Does the Voice divide Australia based on race?	The Voice aims to narrow a division that already exists in Australia. Better-informed decision making by Parliament about First Nations issues should improve the lives of First Nations people and level the playing field.
Would the voice limit the ability of Parliament to make laws?	No. The Voice will not be able to veto or block legislation. The decisions of the Government and the passing of legislation will continue to be the responsibility of the elected representatives in the House of Representatives and the Senate.
How will the Voice members be chosen?	If the referendum is successful, there will be a process with First Nations communities, the Parliament and the broader public to finalise the Voice design. Legislation to establish the Voice will go through standard parliamentary processes, passed through both Houses of Parliament.

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We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of this land and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Kate Chaney MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN