

4.2. Become familiar with a Strategic Advocacy Framework¹:

<p>The Problem</p> <p>What is the problem with the current system? Why is policy reform needed?</p>	<p>First Nations people don't have enough of a say in matters that affect them.</p>
<p>Solution</p> <p>What reform is necessary to solve the problem?</p>	<p>It is essential that First Nations people have a say in the policy matters that affect their lives. This is the goal of a First Nations Voice to parliament embedded in the Constitution.</p> <p>The Voice will be an independent, representative advisory body for First Nations people. It will provide a permanent means to advise the Australian Parliament and Government on the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on matters that affect them.</p> <p>It's a Fair go for Indigenous Australians</p> <p>It's Practical: our best chance to close the gap</p> <p>It's a Unifying Moment for all Australians</p>
<p>Evidence</p> <p>What evidence do you have that the Voice is an effective solution to the problem?</p>	<p>How does the lack of a First Nations Voice in Parliament affect their lived experience?</p> <p>Without enough of a say over the matters that affect them, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are subject to laws, policies and institutions that do not account for, or deeply understand, the lived experience of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture ● Spirituality and connections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community & Family ○ Links to Country ○ Drawing strength from Country

¹ "Advocacy Toolkit," NSW Council Of Social Service (NCOSS), 2021, p. 2-3, https://www.ncoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NCOSS_Advocacy-Toolkit_2021.pdf



- Totems
- Kinship
- Holistic understandings of health
- Histories of trauma
- Differences in language and non-Western understandings of the world

How will the Voice impact this?

- The Voice is about empowering self-determination, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have ‘an ongoing progress of choice’ over their own social, cultural and economic needs².
- The Voice will allow Indigenous Australians to provide advice to Parliament on matters relating to them.
- The Voice is a mechanism for Indigenous guidance over Indigenous matters. It supports self-determination.

What evidence is there that proves self-determination works?

Self-determination "has been prescribed as being necessary for Aboriginal people to overcome their institutionalised disadvantage"³ for decades.

This is because:

- "It ensures Aboriginal peoples' rights to culture are respected and upheld."⁴
- "It involves Aboriginal people in decision making"⁵

"Without self-determination it is not possible for Indigenous Australians to fully overcome the legacy of colonisation and dispossession."⁶

² "Right to self-determination", Australian Human Rights Commission, 2023, <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/rights-and-freedoms/right-self-determination#:~:text=Self%20determination%20is%20an%20'on,social%2C%20cultural%20and%20economic%20needs>.

³ What is Aboriginal self-determination?" Victorian Public Sector Commission, June 28, 2022, <https://vpssc.vic.gov.au/workforce-programs/aboriginal-cultural-capability-toolkit/aboriginal-self-determination/>

⁴ Victorian Public, "What is Aboriginal self-determination?", n.p.

⁵ Victorian Public, "What is Aboriginal self-determination?", n.p.

⁶ Victorian Public, "What is Aboriginal self-determination?", n.p.

<p>How do we achieve this solution?</p> <p>Who has the power to bring about this change?</p>	<p><u>You do</u>, with your vote in the Referendum.</p> <p>To alter the Constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and enshrine their Voice to become an advisory panel to Parliament, two things must happen:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) A majority of Australians in Australia must vote 'yes'2) There must be a majority of 'yes' votes in at least two thirds of states