



# Why I will vote NO

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4 July 2023

*“It sounds like a Voice to me”*

## **Basic Principles – The Voice as proposed is racist.**

***James Allen – Spectator 2 May 23***

“the Voice will undermine the core concept of equal citizenship that lies at the heart of any liberal democracy. Some will get rights others do not, and on a group-rights basis.”

***HENRY ERGAS The Australian 27 Jan 2023***

“Now, spurning that tradition, we are told the key to building a fairer Australia lies in reversing the arc of democratic progress: for all citizens to eventually be equal, it seems, some citizens must be made more equal than others.”

“Is that really what we want to leave our children and grandchildren: a country in which abhorrent distinctions based on biology are used to bestow constitutional privileges on some Australians and deny them to others?”

### **Australian 14.7.23**

Each and every one of these principles – equal responsibility, equal representation, equal consultation – is breached by the voice. Reversing the arc of democratic progress, it establishes two classes of citizenship, separate and unequal, cementing that discrimination in the Constitution. And that discrimination is based on race and race alone.

### **Recognition:**

Regardless of current laws, any referendum on unambiguous Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal people should be a separate issue from The Voice. Such a referendum would likely be passed by a large majority.

# The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)

From their website:

## ***Our Vision***

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are heard, recognised and empowered.

## ***Our purpose***

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) works in genuine partnership to enable the self-determination and aspirations of First Nations communities. We lead and influence change across government to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a say in the decisions that affect them.

## **Sounds like a Voice to me**

**From NIAA annual report, 2021-22: Jody Broun, CEO**

“The NIAA has focused on working in partnership and place to deliver on programs under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS). First and foremost, we work with First Nations peoples to share decision making to achieve better outcomes.”

“I am proud of the work of the Agency over the last year as we lead and influence change across government to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a say in the decisions that affect them.”

“To lead and coordinate the development and implementation of Australia’s Closing the Gap targets in partnership with Indigenous Australians “

“To build and maintain effective partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, state and territory governments and other relevant stakeholders to inform whole-of-government priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and enable policies, programs and services to be tailored to the unique needs of communities.”

\$2 billion annual budget; \$290 million in expenses, 2021-22; employs 1300 people.

## **Sounds like a Voice to me**

## How effective is the NIAA?



In the Northern Territory, 2023. 'My home is a cement slab'

*Not very !!*

## Indigenous politicians:

Currently they number 11:



LABOR MP LINDA  
BURNEY



LABOR MP GORDON  
REID



LABOR MP MARION  
SCRYMGOUR



Six of these 11 are ALP members; one of them, Linda Burney, is Minister for Indigenous Australians

## Sounds like a Voice to me

### **How many Aboriginal corporations are there?**

“As at 31 December 2020 a total of 3273 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations were registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act). Of these 227 were registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs).”

From Office of the Registrar of aboriginal corporations, Report 2021

## Sounds like a VOICE to me.



## **Constitutional matters:**

**Section 51 (xxvi) now (post-1967):** “The people of any race, for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws”

### **The proposed ‘voice’ referendum in effect**

1: is not needed in respect to making laws for any race as it is already in the Constitution. The Government can legislate the ‘voice’

2: would in fact undo the removal of section 127 and replace it with a new racist section 'Aborigines will to be counted in reckoning as a special population with special privileges.'

That is racist policy.

## **Conclusions:**

The Voice is a racist proposal. In addition, there already exists a voluminous framework within the NIAA and Parliament that should be capable of handling all aspects of the proposed Voice.

If the Voice proponents are saying that a new body is needed, then this is a massive vote of NO CONFIDENCE in the CEO of NIAA, Jody Broun, and ALP members of Parliament. All of them should consider resignation.



*Jody Broun*