



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land we work on every day.

I respect their elders past and present, and all Aboriginal people, especially those we touch base with as part of our work.

ALT

Vote YES to close the gap

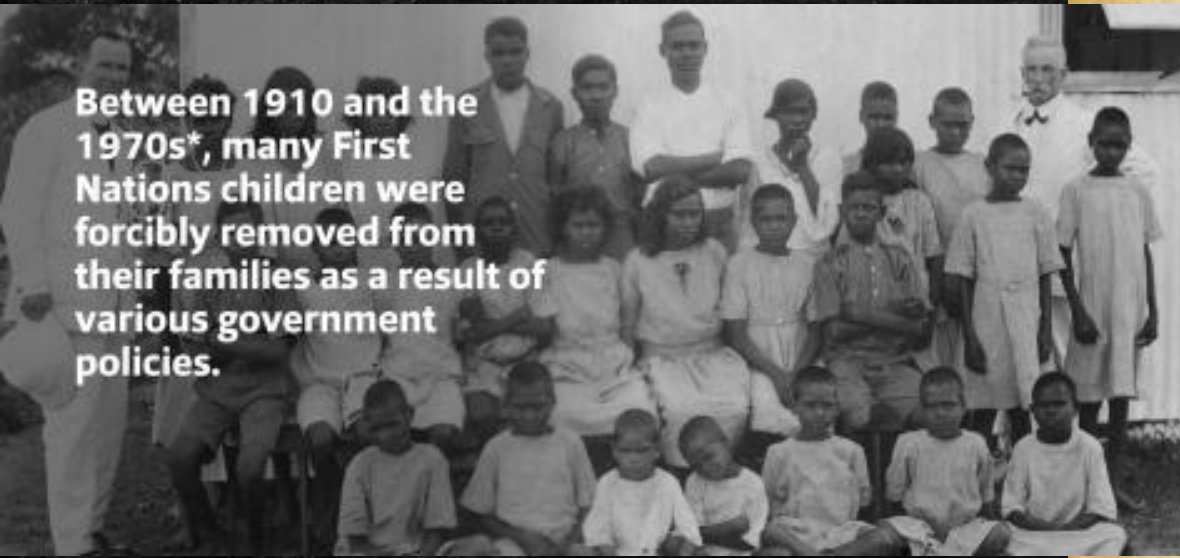
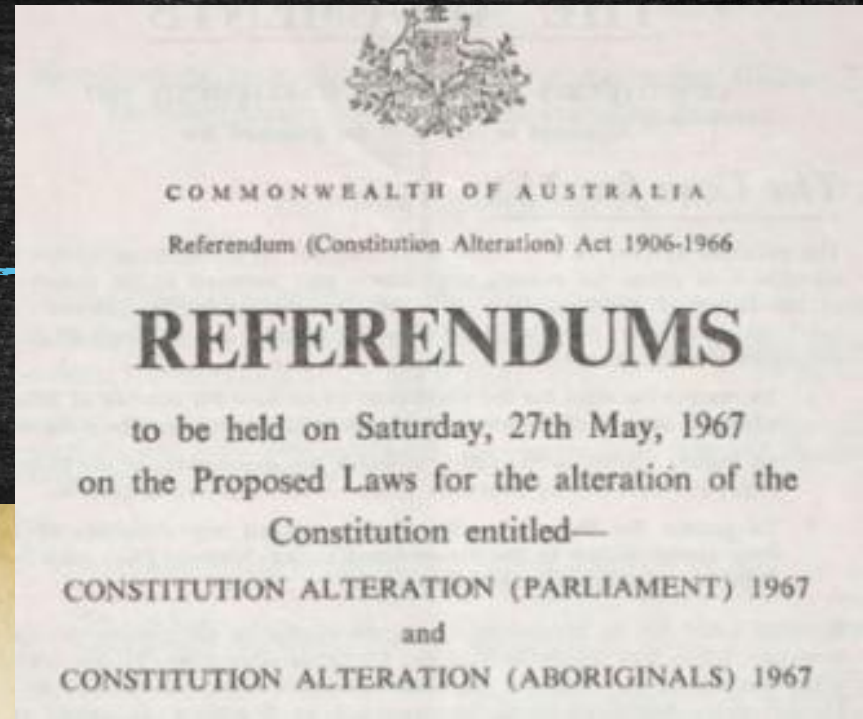




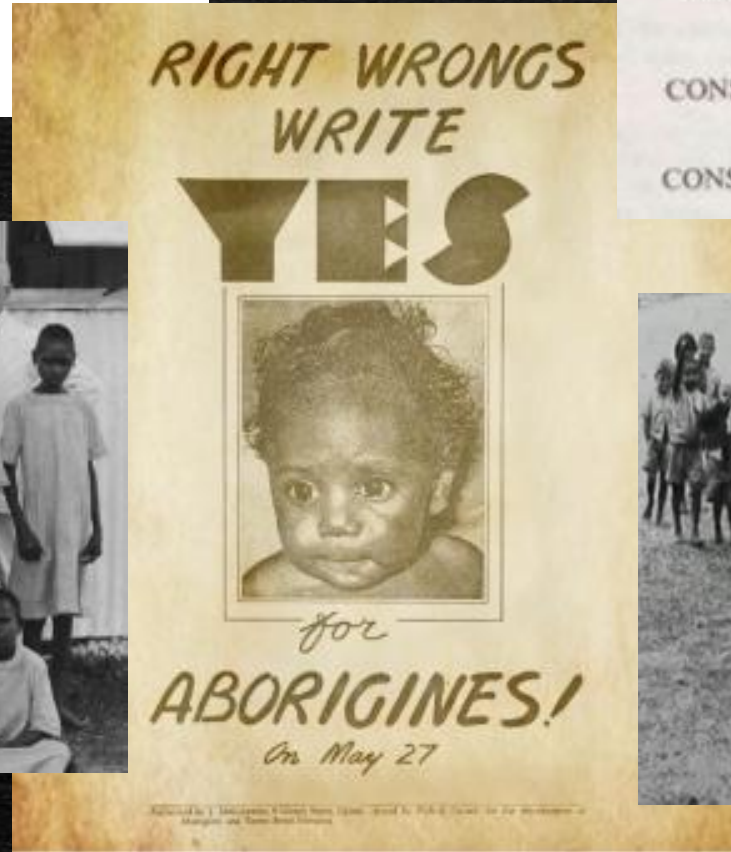
A poster from the time period, encouraging the White Australia Policy



A poster from the early 1900's advocating the White Australia Policy



Between 1910 and the 1970s\*, many First Nations children were forcibly removed from their families as a result of various government policies.



NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT  
ABORIGINES PROTECTION ACT, 1909-1943, SECTION 18c  
[REGULATION 56]

**CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION**

From Provisions of the Act and Regulations

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Aborigine, aged \_\_\_\_\_ years, residing at \_\_\_\_\_

(caste)

is a person who in the opinion of the Aborigines Welfare Board, ought no longer be subject to the \_\_\_\_\_ provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act and Regulations, or any of such following provisions provisions, and he/she is accordingly exempted from such provisions:—

Photograph of

Issued in compliance with the Resolution of the Aborigines Welfare Board and dated the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_\_

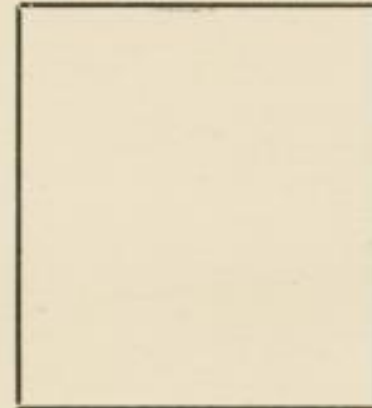
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman.

\_\_\_\_\_ Member.

of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Countersigned by  
The Secretary.

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Signature of Holder \_\_\_\_\_

# Cashless welfare card treats Aboriginal people 'as third-class citizens'

Pat Turner, chief executive of the national peak body on Aboriginal health, describes indue card as 'unfair' and 'a form of control'



📷 A cashless welfare card, or 'indue card', which is being trialled among welfare recipients in some towns in Australia. Most people on welfare in the trial towns are Aboriginal. Photograph: -/The Guardian

# Northern Territory repeals alcohol laws 'discriminatory' to Indigenous people

Scrapped orders introduced by the former CLP government were criticised over the number of Indigenous people subjected to them



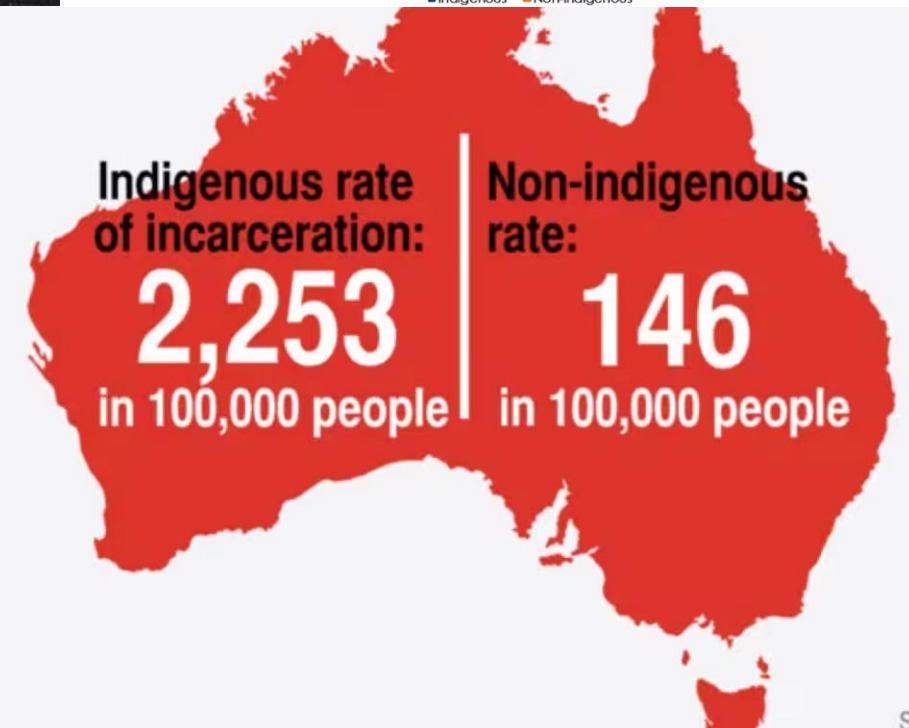
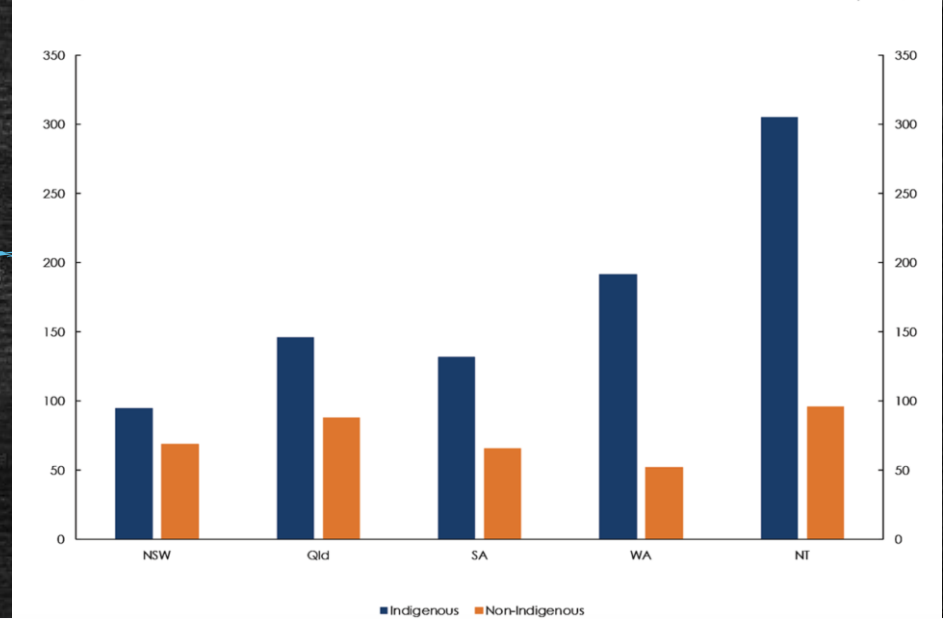
📷 Northern Territory's new Alcohol Harm Reduction Act repeals discriminatory alcohol laws. Latest change in long running differences on how to regulate alcohol in the NT. Photo: Wimborne/Reuters



# Some quick statistics

- First Nations peoples have health, education, infant mortality outcomes drastically worse than non-Indigenous Australia
- First Nations peoples will live around 9 years less than non-Indigenous Australians.
- Proportionally they are the most incarcerated people on the planet.
- If you are an Indigenous man you are more likely to go to jail than to university.

Figure 1.2: Child mortality rates, by jurisdiction, 2014–2018  
Deaths per 100,000



“This sovereignty ... has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.”



“Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on **justice** and **self-determination**.”



# The Voice Referendum

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- We are essentially voting on a **principle**, with the input of First Nations Peoples, to determine the specifics.
- **Constitutional Recognition**: First Nations Peoples will be granted a constitutional right to speak to government and the parliament about what's needed for practical improvements to their lives. Being in the constitution so the government can't dismantle their voices.
- The problem has been that governments of different persuasions make policies *for* First Nations peoples, not *with* First Nations peoples.

# What is a Voice?

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- It's a proposed group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who would advise the Government and Parliament on how a policy (like rural health) or a law (like Native Title changes) would practically and culturally affect Indigenous peoples.
- First Peoples select their own representatives in accordance with their own local practices, protocols and expectations.



# Let's review some of the no arguments

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- Why is the Voice needed when there are already First Nations members of parliament?
- Isn't NIAA (National Indigenous Australians Agency) enough?
- Do other countries have mechanisms like the proposed Voice?
- The Voice seems to lack details?
- Will the Voice help close the gap or have a positive impact on the lives of First peoples?
- Will the Voice give First Nations peoples "special rights"?
- Do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples support the Voice?
- How can the Voice represent the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander views?

# Closing remarks

- Instead of “If you don’t know, vote no” ...
- **If you don’t know, find out more!**
- “In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.” (Uluru Statement from the Heart, 2017)
- The influence of your vote

## Vote ‘NO’ to the politicians’ republic

This referendum is not just about whether Australia should become a republic. It is about the type of republic.

And the republic model being proposed is seriously flawed - it is untried, unworkable, undemocratic and elitist. The politicians will appoint the President, not the people. It removes the checks and balances from the current system.

Different people will be voting ‘NO’ for many different reasons:

**Don’t know? - Vote ‘NO’**

Those who don’t know - should vote ‘NO’ - because that is the only safe way to go.

A SECTION OF THE NO CAMPAIGN’S 1999 PAMPHLET (IMAGE: SUPPLIED)

## No campaign tactics word-for-word lift of the same old fearmongering

The No campaign against the Voice is muddying the water with 'emotive language' rather than 'facts and figures'. Sounds familiar.

# Useful resources

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- Ten questions about the Voice to Parliament - answered by the experts: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/news/2023/06/ten-questions-about-the-voice-to-parliament---answered-by-the-ex>
- Uluru Dialogue's FAQ section: <https://ulurustatement.org/the-voice/faqs/>
- Voice to Parliament FAQs, Reconciliation WA: <https://www.recwa.org.au/voice-to-parliament-faqs/>
- FAQs on the Voice, Law Council of Australia: <https://lawcouncil.au/files/web-pdf/The%20Voice/The%20Voice%20-%20FAQs%20final.pdf>
- Fact sheets, Law Council of Australia: <https://lawcouncil.au/policy-agenda/the-referendum-for-an-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-voice>
- Debunking 10 myths and misconceptions: <https://lens.monash.edu/@politics-society/2023/02/27/1385518/voice-to-parliament-debunking-10-myths-and-misconceptions>
- The Voice to Parliament explained, The Conversation: <https://theconversation.com/the-voice-to-parliament-explained-212100>