



First Nations Voice to Parliament

The [First Nations Voice Act 2023](#) enables the South Australian First Nations Voice to speak directly to the Parliament of South Australia.

The Parliament has agreed to rules or 'Standing Orders' to provide for the following interactions between the First Nations Voice and the Parliament.

Annual Address to a Joint Sitting of Parliament

Each year, the State First Nations Voice (State Voice) will provide a report to Parliament on its operations, and the operations of each Local First Nations Voice (Local Voice). One Presiding Member of the State Voice will give an address, or speech, to Parliament on the report.

The address will be given to a 'joint sitting' of Parliament, where Members of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly will sit together. The President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly will consult with the State Voice to determine when the joint sitting will be held.

The joint sitting will be chaired by the President of the Legislative Council, or in their absence, the Speaker of the House of Assembly. Joint sittings are traditionally held in the Legislative Council Chamber.

One Presiding Member of the State Voice will be invited onto the floor of the Legislative Council chamber. The Premier (or another Member nominated by the Premier) will be called on to make opening remarks. The Presiding Member of the State Voice will then be invited to address the joint sitting. The joint sitting will then be adjourned.

The report presented by the State First Nations Voice will be tabled in both Houses after the joint sitting.

Address on Bills

The Clerks of both the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly must advise the State Voice of each Bill introduced in either House.

If the State Voice decides it wishes to speak to Parliament about a Bill, one of the State Voice Presiding Members is entitled to address either House. Except in urgent cases, the State Voice must give the President of the Legislative Council or the Speaker of the House of Assembly at least seven-days notice of its intent to address the relevant House. The address may be given at any time during the Bill's passage through the Parliament.

On the day of the address, the President or the Speaker will admit the Presiding Member of the State Voice onto the floor of the relevant Chamber. The Presiding Member will have up to 20 minutes to address the House in relation to the Bill.

Report on matters

The State Voice may present a report to both Houses at any time on matters of interest to First Nations people. The reports will be tabled in both Houses by the President of the Legislative Council

and the Speaker of the House of Assembly. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs must then prepare a response to the report within 6 months and table a copy of the response in both Houses.

The President of the Legislative Council or the Speaker of the House of Assembly may also request the State Voice to provide a report on a particular matter or request a member of the State Voice to address either House in relation to a Bill. A request to address the House may be made by either a resolution of the House, or a request from a Minister. This is a request only, and the State Voice is not compelled to prepare such a report or attend the House.

References

For further information on the First Nations Voice, visit the [South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament](#) website.

For further information on the Standing Orders of the [Legislative Council](#) and the [House of Assembly](#), visit the [Parliament of South Australia](#) website.