



Referendum Council

Consultation outcomes Broome, Thursday Island and Melbourne June/ July 2016

Throughout June and July, the [Referendum Council](#) brought together Indigenous leaders from across the country in a series of meetings to discuss constitutional recognition and the process for consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Meetings were held in Broome, Thursday Island and Melbourne and represented an important first step for the Referendum Council to engage with Indigenous leaders on the ground in a series of honest and meaningful discussions about recognition.

Referendum council co-chair Pat Anderson summed up the purpose of the meetings:

“Our job is to go out and talk to the population. First of all, number one in our terms of reference is that we are charged with going out and talking to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ask them what they think.

"There is, and will be, a host of different points of view and our job is to go out there and seek those views.”

The views of about 130 traditional owners, community leaders and peak bodies were collected during the meetings.

Discussions mostly touched on the importance of constitutional reform being meaningful and how treaty and recognition are linked or interact.

While the meetings were not designed to be conclusive, they provided the Referendum Council with a set of meaningful insights to help shape important future conversations with Indigenous leaders about building a national process for consultation around recognition.

The Referendum Council is now planning its next phase of consultation, which will be dialogues with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in communities across Australia. The Council announced further details about this process on [20 October 2016](#).