



# A Bill to establish an Aboriginal Representative Body FAQs

## What is an 'Aboriginal Representative Body'?

The Aboriginal Representative Body will be established by legislation. The body will be a group of Aboriginal South Australians, who may be elected or appointed and will represent the diversity of the South Australian Aboriginal community on matters effecting Aboriginal people.

The body will meet regularly with the Parliamentary Committee, executive government (like the Premier and other Ministers) and the public sector Chief Executives to make sure that Aboriginal voices are heard at the highest level and are a part of government decision making.

## What will the body look like?

It is proposed that the body will comprise of five elected member and seven appointed members of Aboriginal South Australians. Membership will include gender balance, elders, youth and geographical representation. All members **must** be Aboriginal. The Aboriginal Representative Body Bill establishes the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement as the Presiding Member of the body.

## How will people be elected to the body?

The Electoral Commission will hold an election every three years. The first will be in 2022. Aboriginal people can nominate for election for a ward. There will be five wards established in the Act, representing geographic parts of South Australia. An election for a ward position will be based on the highest number of votes (first past the post).

## How will people be appointed to the body?

The Governor will appoint members to the body. The appointments will be made after the election to make sure that the body represents all people in terms of gender and skills (for example, if all the elected people are in an older age bracket, or all male, then the appointed members will need to be younger and female to make sure there is a good mix of community on the body).

## Will Members of the body be paid?

Yes, members will receive sitting fees for their time spent meeting as part of the Aboriginal Representative Body.



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## **How will members of the community engage with the Aboriginal Representative Body?**

The body will be elected and appointed from your community. They will be there to make sure community views are heard by the government. Once the body is in place, they will engage regularly with all Aboriginal South Australians.

## **How will I know that government is genuinely listening to the Aboriginal Representative Body?**

The government is committed to reforming how it engages with Aboriginal South Australians. The Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement has worked closely with the Premier to make sure the new model will be genuinely supported by the government.

The body will report annually to Parliament. This report will detail how the body has operated and if there are any recommendations the body wishes to make. If the body asks an agency to provide detail or advice on a matter and the agency fails to do so, the body will have the power to report that to a Minister and ask the Minister to report to Parliament. This will deliver a high level of public accountability for government.