



The Voice Presenters Toolkit

MainFM – Reporting on the Voice to Parliament Resources for presenters

Any questions or queries, for help and guidance reach out to Steph on manager@mainfm.net

On Saturday, 14 October 2023, all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over will vote on whether Australia should change its Constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

MainFM's role in the lead up to the Referendum is to disseminate accurate information and facilitate robust and respectful discussion amongst our community. Our aim is to help you feel confident and empowered to discuss the Voice on air.

MainFM has developed a **Community Toolkit** with a wealth of information, resources and facts you can refer to in order to ensure you are equipped and confident to discuss the referendum accurately. You can access MainFM's toolkit;

https://mainfm.net/the-voice-referendum_-_mainfm-community-toolkit/

The importance of including local First Nations voices

- It's imperative we seek to involve and take advice from Indigenous Australians and encourage you to be pro active in doing so. If you would like to invite community members onto your show for a discussion and seek an introduction, please reach out to station management.

You got this!

Given the gravity of the situation, it might feel daunting to comment on or discuss the Referendum on air. However, fear of making mistakes should not hold you back. We are all humans, attempting to navigate our way through this process. We are here to support you and welcome any questions you might have or provide assistance if needed.

As part of our Broadcasting licence, MainFM is obliged to adhere to our industry's Codes of Practice.

The CBA have developed a guiding document on covering the Voice. You can access it here:
<https://www.cbaa.org.au/covering-voice-referendum>

The guidance material is designed to help members:

- *understand what they need to do to accurately report on the Voice and deal with disinformation;*
- *meet their obligations around referendums under broadcasting and other regulations; and*
- *sensitively navigate cultural issues*

The Voice

Presenters Toolkit

Staying ahead of misinformation can be challenging. Regardless of each broadcaster's point of view, all stations must ensure that any coverage and discussion meets the obligations of the Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice, including being accurate and non-discriminatory.

It is also important to be sensitive to First Nations concerns. The Referendum is passionately contested, and aspects of the debate have the potential to cause damage and distress to First Nations people who have experienced racism and intergenerational trauma from government policies, so the importance of respectful coverage cannot be overstated. As a sector we have strength in our networks and the ability to work productively with and be guided by advice from our local First Nations communities.

All presenters reserve the right to express their opinion, provided they don't contravene the Codes of Practice. There are 3 main Codes of Practice:

<https://www.cbaa.org.au/covering-voice-referendum/codes-practice-and-voice-referendum>

Anti-discrimination Codes (Code 3.3)

We will not broadcast material that is likely to stereotype, incite, vilify, or perpetuate hatred against, or attempt to demean any person or group, on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, language, gender, sexuality, religion, age, physical or mental ability, occupation, cultural belief or political affiliation. The requirement is not intended to prevent the broadcast of material which is factual, or the expression of genuinely held opinion in a news or current affairs program or in the legitimate context of a humorous, satirical or dramatic work.

News and Current Affairs Codes (Code 3.6)

News, current affairs (including news updates and promotions), documentaries, feature programs and interviews shall:

- a.** provide access to views not adequately represented by other broadcasting sectors
- b.** present factual material accurately and ensure that reasonable efforts are made to correct substantial errors of fact as quickly as possible,
- c.** clearly distinguish factual material from commentary and analysis
- d.** present news in such a way that it does not create public panic or unnecessary distress to listeners, and represent viewpoints fairly without having a misleading emphasis, editing out of context or withholding relevant and available material.

Coverage of Indigenous issues (Code 4)

Code 4 of the Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice requires that stations look to advice from Indigenous Australians where they are covering Indigenous issues. Specifically:

Code 4.1: We will seek to involve and take advice from Indigenous Australians in the production of programs focusing on Indigenous Australians and issues. Where possible, we will consult the appropriate Indigenous media organisation broadcaster on appropriate forms of communication.

Code 4.2: When reporting on Indigenous peoples and issues, we will take care to verify and observe the best way to respect culture and customs by:

- a.** considering regional differences, that is, be mindful of differences between Indigenous local groups
- b.** using appropriate words and phrases in referring to Indigenous peoples and their regional groups
- c.** seeking proper advice on how to best respect Indigenous bereavement customs when reporting on people who are recently deceased
- d.** using suitable words and phrases when reporting on the social and emotional well-being of Indigenous people.

The Voice Presenters Toolkit

Fact Check is a resource you can use;

<https://toolbox.google.com/factcheck/explorer/search/Voice%20to%20parliament;hl=en>

CBAA Guidance resources:

- Check your Codes of Practice obligations at Codes of Practice and the Voice Referendum

<https://www.cbaa.org.au/covering-voice-referendum/codes-practice-and-voice-referendum>

- Find trusted sources of information and ways to manage disinformation at Getting the Facts Right

<https://www.cbaa.org.au/sites/default/files/media/Getting%20the%20Facts%20Right%20on%20the%20Voice%20Referendum.pdf>

- Check out cultural policies and protocols at Respectful Reporting on the Voice Referendum

<https://www.cbaa.org.au/covering-voice-referendum/respectful-reporting-voice-referendum>

- Find out what you need to do around sponsorship, tagging, blackouts and charities at Other Regulatory Requirements for Referendums

<https://www.cbaa.org.au/covering-voice-referendum/other-regulatory-requirements-referenda>

- Support your team's mental health with Mental Health Support During the Voice Debate

<https://www.cbaa.org.au/covering-voice-referendum/mental-health-support-during-voice-debate>

CBAA Position:

- Read the CBAA's formal statement regarding its position on the Referendum

<https://www.cbaa.org.au/sites/default/files/media/CBAA%20Position%20on%20the%20Voice.pdf>

How to recognise different types of misonformation

