

# Uluru Statement & First Nations Voice to Parliament

## Current issue

- *My Government will implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.*

### Brief talking points

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- My Government will hold a referendum on enshrining a First Nations Voice in the constitution in the second half of 2023.
  - The work to enshrine a Voice does not come at the expense of work to close the gap. In the 2022-23 October Budget, my Government committed \$1.2 billion to practical measures to close the gap.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

## Key facts

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- *Minister Burney has said the Government will not publicly fund a yes or no campaign, but instead fund a neutral civics educational program (29 Nov 22).*
- *In the 2022-23 Budget, the Government committed over \$80 million to continue implementing the Uluru Statement in full, including:*
  - *\$75.1 million to prepare for the delivery of a referendum;*
  - *\$5.8 million to commence work to establish a Makarrata Commission;*
  - *DGR status for Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition.*

# Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022

## Current issue

- *The Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984 will be updated prior to a referendum to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.*

## Brief talking points

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- My Government does not intend to fund a yes or no campaign.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

## Key facts

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- *The Referendum Act currently requires compulsory delivery of a yes/no pamphlet to all households, and prohibits Commonwealth expenditure on any other activities that present arguments for or against the referendum.*

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- *Minister Burney has said the Government will not publicly fund a yes or no campaign, but instead fund a neutral civics educational program (7 Nov 22; 20 Nov 22; 29 Nov 22).*
  - *Assistant Minister Gorman indicated the Government would not fund a yes or no campaign when the Referendum Bill was introduced into Parliament (1 Dec 22).*
- *Senator Jacinta Price called the Government 'disingenuous', stating that the \$235m provided in the October 22-23 Budget to invest in the delivery of the Voice referendum was equivalent to funding the Yes campaign (5 Dec 22).*

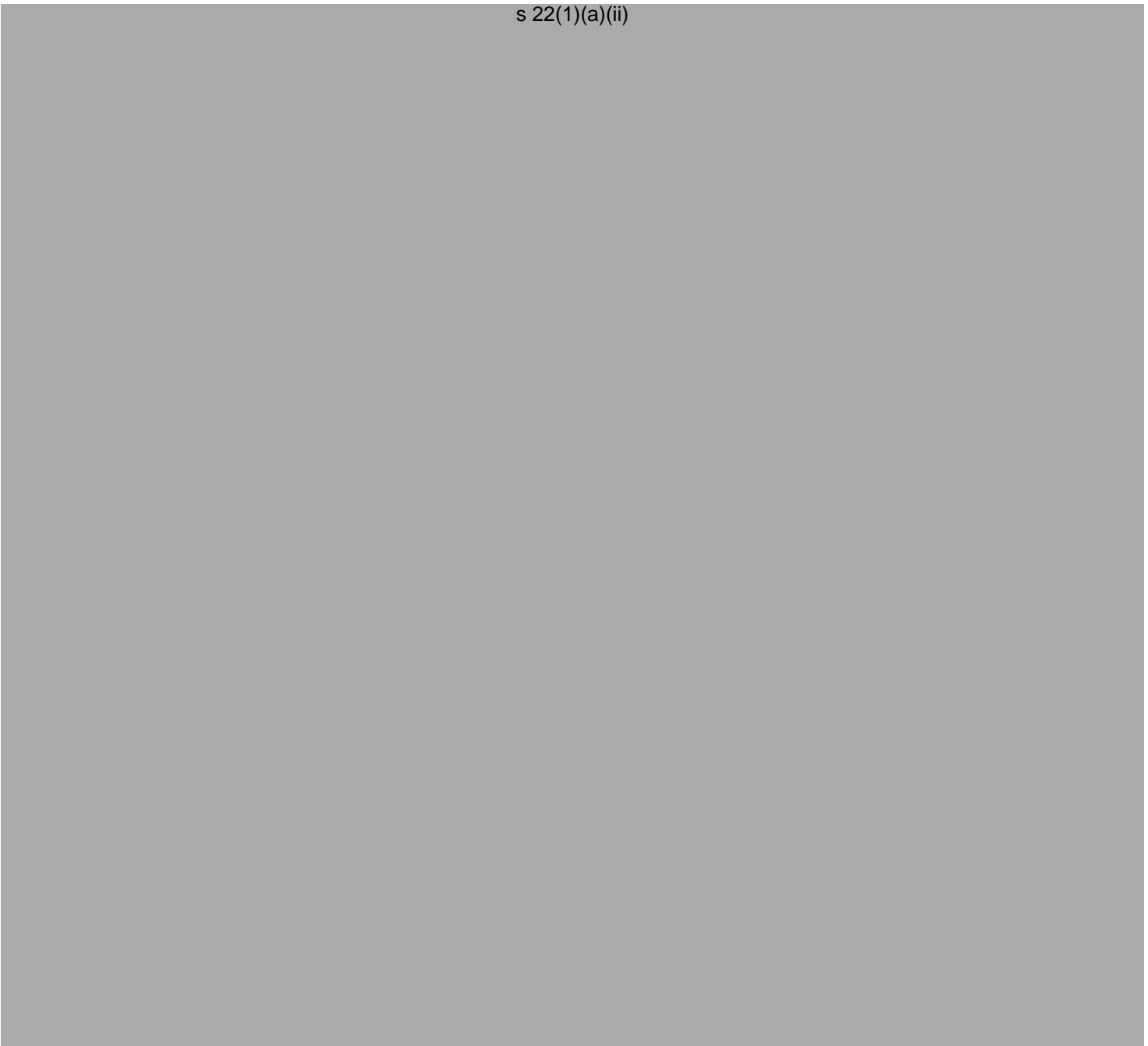
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Number: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



### ***Background - 2022-23 October Budget measures***

#### ***Delivery of a First Nations Voice to Parliament Referendum – preparatory work***

- The Government has committed \$75.1 million over two years from 2022-23 to prepare for the delivery of a referendum to enshrine a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the Constitution. Funding comprises:
  - \$50.2 million in 2022-23 to the Australian Electoral Commission to commence preparations to deliver the referendum;
  - \$16.1 million over two years from 2022-23 to increase First Nations peoples enrolment and participation in future electoral events;

## Back Pocket Brief

- \$6.5 million over two years from 2022-23 to the NIAA to support the referendum, including the establishment of a governance structure to support the special advisory groups that will engage with stakeholders and provide advice to Government; and
- \$2.4 million over two years from 2022-23 for legal advice and additional staffing to support planning for the referendum, including for the review of the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* (\$1.6 million over two years from 2022-23 for the Attorney-General's Department, and \$0.8 million over two years from 2022-23 for the Department of Finance).
- The work to enshrine a Voice does not come at the expense of work to close the gap. The Government is investing \$1.2 billion in practical measures to close the gap for First Nations people and communities.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Around \$75 million to do preparatory work to deliver the referendum to enshrine a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the constitution.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

*Amendments to the Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* (the Referendum Act)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- The Government does not intend to fund a yes or no campaign, but will conduct civics education activities.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**PROTECTED: Cabinet**

| #              | Decision topic  | History of decisions  | Summary of current status   | Next steps and key issues |
|----------------|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| s 22(1)(a)(ii) |   |   |   |                           |
| CE<br>2        | <b>Civics, education and awareness campaign</b><br><br>Details of education campaigns, including civics programs or ‘yes’/‘no’ campaigns. | <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>s 34(2)</p> <p>s 34(2)</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> | <p>Government has publicly announced they will not fund yes/no campaigns but will run a civics education program.</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> | <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>     |
|                |   | <p>s 34(2)</p> <p>s 34(3)</p>   |   |                           |