

## ROLE DESCRIPTION

# Elders' Voice standing group

## The opportunity

The Elders' Voice is seeking Traditional Owner Elders from across Victoria for a standing group of Elders, who will provide cultural and ethical advice, guidance, wisdom to the First People's Assembly of Victoria (Assembly) on the journey to Treaty.

The standing group will consist of Elders from each of the five Assembly Regions, who will meet up to six times a year and provide timely and considered feedback and advice to the Elders' Voice Co-Chairs.

This is a 12-month position with sitting fees provided to attend meetings.

## About the Elders' Voice

The Elders' Voice provides the Assembly with cultural strength and guidance that is needed on this journey to Treaty – giving Elders a platform for their voices to be listened to and respected at every step.

The Elders' Voice reflects the values and principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and ensures the voices of Elders will be listened to and respected at every step along the journey to Treaty.

Led by two Assembly Members elected as Elders' Voice co-chairs, the Elders' Voice brings Elders together across the state to share their knowledge and inform the journey to Treaty.

## Elders' Voice participants

The standing group of Elders will be regular participants in the Elders' Voice, ensuring the Elders' Voice can provide representative and timely advice. The standing group will complement advice gathered through local, regional, and state-wide Elders' Voice events.

Elders who are selected as regular participants in the Elders' Voice are required to be Traditional Owners of Country in Victoria and enrolled with the Assembly. See below for a full list of selection criteria.

The Elders' Voice does not define Elders or Eldership. The Elders' Voice is not a class of membership of the Assembly. Elders participating in the Elders' Voice standing group or other Elders' Voice events are not elected Members of the First People's Assembly of Victoria.

## Roles and Responsibilities – standing group

The Elders' Voice participants will:

- consider briefs and materials provided by the Assembly Members.
- discuss and provide considered feedback to the Elders' Voice Co-Chairs based upon their own Cultural knowledge and views.

Elders' Voice participants will be required to:

- participate via online or in-person meetings up to six times per year.
- provide cultural and ethical advice, guidance, wisdom based on their own cultural knowledge and views.
- uphold the four Cultural Pillars of the Elders' Voice (Respect, Connectedness, Knowledge, and Lore).
- engage with other participants at Elders' Voice events respectfully, fairly, and honestly
- abide by Assembly policies (outlined below).

Participants will also have the option to:

- participate or contribute to other Elders' Voice events, community forums or activities within their region.
- contribute to Elders' Voice newsletters.

## Individual selection criteria

To participate in the Elders' Voice, the Elder must be:

1. enrolled with the Assembly.
2. a Victorian Traditional Owner of Country.
3. living in Victoria.
4. willing to support the Elders Voice by providing cultural and ethical advice, guidance, wisdom based on their own cultural knowledge and views.
5. willing to uphold the four Cultural Pillars (Respect, Connectedness, Knowledge and Lore).
6. able to participate via online or in-person meetings up to six times per year
7. willing to commit to 12 months of participation.

### Respect, good character and integrity

The Elder should have high moral character and integrity and be a connected and valued member of the First Peoples' community. They must have the courage to listen, learn and provide considered advice and guidance and be willing to respect the views of Traditional Owner groups, families, and Elders within their region.

## Group selection criteria

Selection to participate in the Elders' Voice standing group will be limited and will consider the following principles.

## Gender Balance

Gender balance to ensure that Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority is upheld.

## Regional balance

Elders will be selected to ensure a balance from across the Assembly's five regions.

## Cultural knowledge, wisdom and leadership

Selection will seek to include a broad range of skills, cultural knowledge, and life experiences within the standing group.

## Meetings

Meetings will be rotated through the five Assembly regions in Victoria.

Online options will also be made available for those that cannot attend in person.

Meeting topics, dates, times and locations will be at the discretion of the Elders' Voice Co-Chairs and allow for notice, participation and accessibility.

Meetings will incorporate Cultural processes and consider Men's and Women's Business.

The Elders' Voice will conduct its business, including the holding of meetings, in accordance with the Assembly's Cultural Safety and Lateral Violence policies.

Where an Elder requires a carer to assist them, this carer may attend meetings to provide support.

## Assembly policies

Elders' Voice participants and their carers are expected to engage with other participants respectfully, fairly and honestly.

Elders' Voice participants and their carers are expected to comply with the following Assembly policies:

- Elders' Voice Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Cultural Safety Policy
- Lateral Violence Policy
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- Privacy Policy

More information will be provided to successful applicants.

Breach of the above Assembly policies may result in an Elders' Voice participant being asked not to attend future Elders' Voice events.

## Remuneration, support, and acknowledgement

Sitting fees will be provided for each meeting of the Elders' Voice an Elder attends.

Sitting fees are currently \$169.50 for each half-day or \$339 for each full day meeting attended.

A sitting fee is paid to the carer of an Elders' Voice participant who attends an Elders' Voice meeting as determined by the Elders' Voice Co-Chairs on a case-by-case basis. The carer's sitting fee is \$115 for each half day and \$230 for each full day meeting that the carer attends.

Some support can be provided for online participation in meetings, but participants must have access to a tablet or computer with a camera and internet connection.

Elders will receive acknowledgement of their role and contribution on the Assembly website and in Assembly publications.

## Commitment

An initial 12-month commitment with the opportunity to re-apply.

## How to Apply

Nomination forms are available online [here](#). Paper Nomination forms can be obtained by calling: 1800 TREATY (87 32 89).

### To submit an nomination please:

email the completed form to: [drewb@firstpeoplesvic.org](mailto:drewb@firstpeoplesvic.org)

or post to: **Elders' Voice**  
First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria  
48 Cambridge St, Collingwood  
Victoria, 3066

Nominations need to be submitted by **5.00pm Friday 12 January 2024**

## Further Information

If you have any questions about the role, please contact Drew Berick, Elders' Voice Coordinator. M: 0476 811 368 or email: [drewb@firstpeoplesvic.org](mailto:drewb@firstpeoplesvic.org)