

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERS?

WHAT DOES THE ASSEMBLY DO?

The Assembly is the democratic body that represents Victorian Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Victoria in the Treaty process.

It's mob making decisions for mob to get Treaty done.

In its second term the Assembly is negotiating a Statewide Treaty to ensure decisions about First Peoples are made by First Peoples.

It is also helping empower the diverse Traditional Owner groups in Victoria to prepare to negotiate Treaties in their areas that reflect their specific aspirations and priorities.

The Assembly will continue its work in relation to the Treaty Authority, Treaty Negotiation Framework and the Self-Determination Fund. It may also work on functions and powers secured through early Treaty agreements.



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN ASSEMBLY MEMBER?

Members are the representatives for their communities.

They are expected to yarn with mob in their region and make sure the Assembly discussions and decisions are informed by Community views, ideas and aspirations.

Ultimately, the Members have to make the decisions and vote about how the Assembly will get Treaty done.

Members are required to attend and actively participate in committee and Assembly meetings. These meetings are where the work of the Assembly is progressed and decisions are made.

Members are paid a stipend – a type of allowance – for their time. The stipend Members receive depends on their duties, but all Members will receive at least \$96,946.

General Members are expected to dedicate an average of one to two days per week on Assembly business and attend engagement activities and events with Community. Members who nominated and are elected to specific positions on the Assembly with additional responsibilities receive higher stipends.

In addition to their stipends, Members receive a contribution to their superannuation. They are also reimbursed for expenses incurred whilst undertaking Assembly work.

Members sit on the Assembly until the next elections are held, approximately every three years.

Members receive support from Assembly staff to carry out their work.

Responsibilities



Engagement

Assembly Members must meaningfully engage with the communities they represent and ensure their community's views and aspirations are heard by the Assembly.



Committee and Chamber meetings

Assembly Members must attend and actively participate in Committee and Chamber meetings. These meetings are where the work of the Assembly is progressed and decisions are made.



Cultural governance

Assembly Members must respect and work to strengthen the Assembly's cultural governance practices. In particular, Assembly Members must listen to the wisdom and guidance of Elders through the Elders' Voice.

What might an Assembly Member do in a day?



Call community member



Facilitate yarning circle with Community



Read papers for Assembly Committee meeting



Attend Assembly Committee meeting

Ways of working

- Assembly Members must abide by agreed ways of doing business that are part of cultural practice, lore and law.
- Assembly Members must show respect to each other, their communities and the work of the Assembly. Assembly Members are expected to collaborate with other Assembly Members in their Region.
- Assembly Members must perform their responsibilities in good faith and in the best interests of the Assembly. Assembly Members are expected to follow agreed policies and practices of the Assembly.

Different roles and duties

Assembly Members can nominate and be elected to specific positions on the Assembly.

These positions include Co-Chair or Director of the Assembly, Convener of an Assembly Committee, Chair of the Elders' Voice (if an Elder), Convener of the Youth Voice (if a young person), an Increased Responsibility Role or a Negotiator.

These positions come with additional responsibilities and higher stipend.

Assembly Members receive information about these positions and how to nominate.

Support

Assembly Members receive operational support to carry out their work. This includes assistance with engagement activities and public communications, policy and legal advice and briefings and general organisational support (ie. travel, accommodation).

Key information

Time commitment

On average 1 – 2 days per week on Assembly business for Members who do not have an additional or an Increased Responsibility Role. Plus attending engagement activities and events with Community.

Or 5 days for Members with additional Assembly responsibilities or Increased Responsibility Roles (ie. Chair, Director, Negotiators etc)

Term

It is intended that Assembly Members hold their position until the next Assembly elections, which are held approximately every 3 years.

Remuneration

Assembly Members receive a stipend.

Assembly Members who have additional responsibilities will receive an increased amount to reflect the nature of the position.

All Assembly Members receive a comprehensive induction on their role and the work of the Assembly.