



Victorian Treaty
Advancement
Commission

Treaty: How we got to this point

Since February 2016, the Aboriginal Victorian community and the Victorian Government have been working towards treaty together.

The first step is to lay out the ground rules for treaty—who can represent community, what is on the table, and how negotiations will be kept fair and honest. The community needs a representative body which can work as an equal partner with the State of Victoria to decide these ground rules. That is the job of the Aboriginal Representative Body.

The Aboriginal Treaty Working Group has worked in partnership with the community in designing what the Aboriginal Representative Body should look like—how it should operate, and how it should represent community. The Working Group led 16 consultations across Victoria, and held community led treaty circles. Finally, an Aboriginal Community Assembly was held with community members to make recommendations to the Working Group on the design of the Aboriginal Representative Body.

The work of setting up the Representative Body, including holding elections, will be led by the independent Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner, Jill Gallagher AO.

- **February 2016** – Self Determination Forum held. Victorian Government commits to discussing treaty.
- **April 2016** – Self Determination Forum held across the state
- **May 2016** – Aboriginal Victoria Forum 1 to agree on how to advance self-determination and treaty
- **July 2016** – Creation of the Aboriginal Treaty Working Group
- **November 2016** – Phase 1 Community Consultations begin on the design of the Aboriginal Representative Body
- **December 2016** – Aboriginal Victoria Forum 2 Report back to Community on Phase 1 Consults
- **March 2017** – Phase 2 Community Consultations begin and Treaty Circle Facilitator Training held
- **April 2017** – Aboriginal Victoria Forum 3 Report back to Community on Phase 2 Consults
- **November 2017** – Community Assembly held to finalise the remaining design elements of the Aboriginal Representative Body
- **January 2018** – The Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission Established
- **March 2018** – The Final Report on the design of the Aboriginal Representative Body handed to the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission.