The Voice: A guide to responding

There's no better way to respond to objections than having the right information in front of you. Here are some of the objections you may hear and ways to tackle them.

Common objections	Responses
Lack of detail	The Australian constitution provides the rules, not the operational details. E.g. When Australia established the High Court, the constitution simply stated that Australia should have a High Court. Once the High Court was established in the constitution, it was up to Parliament to decide how the court would work. This Voice would work in the same way.
First Nations people are not supporting the Voice to Parliament	86 per cent of First Nations people are supporting the Yes campaign. Like any group of people, First Nations people make up diverse opinions. Some First Nations people support a treaty first rather than a Voice. However, without establishing a Voice, any treaty that is not convenient for the government, can be removed.
There are already First Nations people in parliament	First Nations people in Parliament are elected to represent their constituents and hold their party's political line.
Won't this give First Nations people special rights?	For too long, First Nations people have been ignored when policies have been made that affect their/our lives. Far too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to experience lower quality of life outcomes that non-Indigenous Australians. Despite good intentions, governments, and parliaments by themselves cannot provide lasting solutions. A Voice to Parliament would simply ensure that First Nations people affected by decisions made about them are able to advise politicians about what really works in their communities.
This is problematic, wont it divide us as a race?	When the constitution was drafted it specifically excluded First Nations Australians. While this exclusion was removed at the 1967 referendum, the constitution still treats Indigenous people differently through the "races power". The "races power" gives the Parliament power to make laws specifically about any group on the basis of race. The "races power" has only been used to make laws about First Nations people. It is only fair and reasonable that First Nations people have a say over those laws. This doesn't add anything except the right to be heard.
Governments have spent billions of dollars on First Nations issues, won't this be a waste of money?	Without a Voice, governments have been wasteful and inconsistent regarding First nations issues. The Voice will provide a means for First Nations people in the communities to work together with governments to direct funding where most needed.

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