

Casey residents call for more information on Voice referendum

By Chelsea Szabo

An “overwhelming majority” of Casey residents want more information on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, says federal MP Aaron Violi.

In the lead up to the referendum, Mr Violi says one reason there is polling “showing support is dropping off” is because people are “confused” about the impact of the Voice and how it will work.

“We need to treat the Australian people with respect and we are a very well educated, engaged community that understands politics in the main,” he says.

The Federal Government has said the Voice referendum should take place between October and December 2023 and Violi says he has called for “more information” from Canberra.

Oonah is an Aboriginal Health and Community Services organisation in Healesville.

Oonah CEO Amanda Hand says when she looks at the information given in previous referendums Australians have “significantly more” than they’ve ever had, but says “it’s certainly a different era of politics”.

Oonah’s stance is not to tell their community how to vote on the referendum, but to research what voice opportunities they have, to “know who their representatives are in all levels of parliament and government and in our First Nations Assembly here in Victoria”, says Ms Hand.

“Ultimately, they’re our representatives at that level and we need to ensure that they’re informed and we know which way they vote,” she says.