

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land, winds, sky, and waters we now share.

Why is truth-telling and healing important?

Any treaty must be based on truth. The truth about our past will help Queenslanders understand how modern Queensland came to be.

Confronting the wrongs of the past has been used across the world to help societies to move forward. Many countries have used truth-telling as a tool to move from 'old ways' to new ways of working together¹. Truth-telling enables acknowledgement of our history, so that past wrongs don't happen again, and the future can be equal, honest, and respectful of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's culture and language².

Truth-telling is a way for all Queenslanders to understand how our past laws, policies and practices have, and continue to, impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is the first step on the Path to Treaty.

During Path to Treaty consultations, Queenslanders told us that they wanted to hear and record the history of our State through a truth-telling and healing process. This may be difficult and traumatic for all Queenslanders. That is why truth-telling must be combined with healing.

The Treaty Advancement Committee recommended a two-stage approach to truth-telling and healing:

1

Local truth-telling and healing activities to address the lack of understanding about the histories and experiences of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

2

A formal Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry.

¹Reconciliation Australia, Truth-telling central to reconciliation process, Reconciliation Australia website, 2018, accessed 24 January 2023.

²Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, *Final Report*, Commonwealth of Australia, 2018.



Truth-telling as part of the Path to Treaty

Queensland's truth-telling and healing will be guided by the Interim Truth and Treaty Body, Path to Treaty Office, Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, and the First Nations Treaty Institute.

The Interim Truth and Treaty Body will:

- Support truth-telling and healing prior to the establishment of the First Nations Institute.
 - Talk to Queenslanders about treaty, truth-telling and healing.
 - Work with public institutions like the State Library, State Archives, museums and art galleries to hold local and regional truth-telling and healing activities.
 - Create a plan for Queensland to build and share the rich collections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's stories that exist.
- Talk to Queenslanders about why the treaty process is important for a reconciled Queensland.
 - Inform education and develop shared understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, languages and traditions.
 - Report the findings of the Inquiry to the Queensland Government.
 - Make recommendations to inform treaty making.

The Path to Treaty Office will:

- Talk to Queenslanders about the treaty and truth-telling process as an important part of the Path to Treaty.
- Support Queensland Government Departments with the truth-telling process as part of becoming treaty ready.
- Support Queensland schools to access and use resources generated through the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry as source material to support teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

The Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry will:

- Provide a public platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-First Nations Queenslanders to tell their truth.
- Listen to and record the stories shared.
- Hold a formal and independent Inquiry into the historical and ongoing impacts of colonisation in Queensland.

The First Nations Treaty Institute will:

- Talk to Queenslanders about truth-telling, healing and the Path to Treaty.
- Provide support for truth-telling and healing.
- Lead the actions and recommendations that emerge from the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry.
- Undertake and provide culturally and ethically informed research.
- Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to develop the skills needed for treaty negotiations.
- Work with the Path to Treaty Office to create a Treaty Making Framework.

Telling the truth about our past and accepting our shared histories is where healing for Queensland begins. This is the most important step on our Path to Treaty – we encourage all Queenslanders to share their history. Visit www.qld.gov.au/treaty for more information.

Other fact sheets available:

- Queensland's Path to Treaty
- What is a treaty?