

What is Truth Telling?



In the 2019 Path to Treaty consultations, Queenslanders said that there can be no treaty without understanding the truth of our State.

The truth about our past will help Queenslanders understand how past laws, policies and practices have, and continue to impact First Nations peoples, and ensure that the histories and stories of First Nations peoples are acknowledged and understood, to initiate the healing process.

Hearing about the truth will be difficult and traumatic for all Queenslanders—which is why truth telling must be combined with tailored trauma responsive approaches to enable ongoing healing.

Staged approach to truth telling

The Truth and Treaty process in Queensland has three distinct pillars of truth telling—all with different objectives, outcomes and opportunities.

STAGE 1 The **Local Truth Telling** process provides an opportunity for communities to learn about their local history—significant historical events, leaders and ambassadors who have shaped and informed their community identity and relationships today, to facilitate the healing process at a local level.

STAGE 2 The **Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry** will set a strong foundation for individuals to share their truth on their terms. The Inquiry will facilitate building confidence and supporting individuals to be comfortable with sharing their truth, and to officially document their stories, and uncover the untold and unrecognised history of Queensland.

STAGE 3 The **First Nations Treaty Institute** will manage a sustained process of truth telling and healing for all Queenslanders, both as an alternative to the formal truth telling and healing process, and to support community treaty readiness. Government agencies and public institutions will also support the truth telling and treaty making process, to facilitate access to records that support communities to prepare for and engage in treaty negotiations.

Interim Truth and Treaty Body – local truth telling

The ITTB will continue to engage with Queensland communities to lay the foundation for a sustained approach to truth-telling and healing.

This includes capturing community aspirations for local truth-telling. These aspirations will assist us in developing a Truth-Telling Strategy, that will provide guidance and information to support communities to initiate local truth-telling.

We will also be seeking community views on the types of support that would be needed to prepare First Nations peoples for treaty negotiations. This information will assist the First Nations Treaty Institute develop a Treaty Making Framework.

For community groups to prepare for the formal truth telling and healing—understanding local histories and being informed about what has happened at a local level, will initiate the healing process.

Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry – formal truth telling

The Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry (Inquiry) will document the historical and ongoing impacts of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Queensland.

The Inquiry will be led by a majority of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander members.

Community consultation will be conducted in the near future, seeking input on the design of the Inquiry Terms of Reference, and the appointment of Inquiry members.

Contact us

If you have any questions for the Interim Truth and Treaty Body please:

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Visit: www.truthandtreatyqld.org.au



**INTERIM TRUTH
AND TREATY BODY**