



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

19 November 2024

Moderator
Rev Bruce Moore

The Hon. David Crisafulli
Premier of Queensland
The.Premier@premiers.qld.gov.au

Dear Premier,

Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry

I wish to express my disappointment about the Queensland government's intent to cease the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry and repeal the Path to Treaty Act 2023. I urge you to reconsider this decision.

The independent Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry is a vital public platform for listening to and recording stories that shine a light on Queensland's past, in order to progress reconciliation, through historical acceptance. We stand as a family in Christ with First Nations peoples across the state and call for truth-telling and justice for the First Nations peoples of these lands. We must continue in our collective efforts in hearing the sometimes-uncomfortable truth about Australia's history in the pursuit of justice, healing, and reconciliation.

As you would know, Queensland's Path to Treaty Commitment was made between Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous peoples in August 2022. If the Path to Treaty Act is repealed, I respectfully ask – what are the alternative arrangements for the Queensland government to negotiate a treaty or treaties between the government and First Nations communities?

The Uniting Church in Australia's (1988) Bicentennial *Statement to the Nation*, recognised our nation's history of injustice and the "continuing experience of violence and injustice" for First Nations peoples in Australia. This stance aligns with the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod's (1996) resolution which affirmed its commitment to ongoing reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

We have committed to rightfully listen for the voice of First Nations peoples in the decision-making of the Uniting Church in Australia. In 1994, the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly formally entered into a binding Covenant relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress



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(UAICC) and all First Peoples of the church, recognising and repenting for the Church's complicity in the injustices perpetrated on Australia's First Peoples, and pledging to move forward with a shared future. UAICC's response to this statement called upon the broader Church to take up the mission of reconciliation.

The Uniting Church in Australia's covenant relationship with First Peoples is at the heart of our church, and we have committed to listening and walking with First Peoples. Through our covenant, First Peoples' sovereignty is affirmed, including the right to self-determination.

I would welcome future opportunities to discuss this letter further. Should you require any more information, I can be contacted on 07 3377 9705.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Bruce Moore

Moderator, Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod