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Dear «salutation»,

We are writing as Queensland groups calling on you to ensure that the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry can continue for its full term.

After 200 years, First Nations (Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander) people from Queensland are finally able to have their stories formally listened to, witnessed, shared, recognised and validated. They will have the chance to speak about their family's experiences of colonization and the truth of our shared history.

The Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry has commenced, under legislation passed in 2023 with bipartisan support, taking evidence from people across the State.

Despite multi-party support in 2023, however, the Liberal National Party has stated that it plans to eliminate the Inquiry if it wins government at the state election on 26 October.

This is incredibly disappointing for First Nations' peoples and for all those in Queensland who understand the importance of knowing our history. We have a rich history that is at times very difficult. Better understanding of our history, in all its aspects, provides a much stronger basis for good government policy and actions in the present and in the future. We cannot move forward together when we don't know why many things are the way they are.

As the inquiry chair, Mr Joshua Creamer, made clear, the inquiry is not about division, but about bringing people together. The point of coming to terms with our shared history is not to divide us but to move away from destructive cycles of violence and trauma and to live well together. "For generations of people, there's been a desire to do things differently," he said. "It would have a significant impact on the community to not let this process occur."

Mr David Crisafulli has called for Queensland victims of crime to be a priority, not an afterthought. Queensland's Police Commissioner, Mr Steve Gollschewski, pointed out at a recent Inquiry hearing that in the past police "took actions that we would not tolerate in any shape or form in current society". We know the importance of recognising the pain, hurt and loss of victims of crime or great injustice, whether that crime or injustice is recent or happened in the often not so distant past. We need to extend this recognition to those First Nations' members of the community who suffered under previous governments and state-supported institutions.

Truth-telling is a fundamental path to healing and justice for First Nations' peoples and to moving towards a more unified Queensland community, confident in our own history, present and future. Rejection of the Voice should not be taken to mean that we as Queenslanders do not want and need to know more of our own history.

We call on all Parliamentarians to respect our history and help to heal the pain and injustice born by so many First Nations' people. In particular, we call on all Parliamentarians to

support the fundamentally important work of the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry by enabling it to continue fully.

Yours sincerely

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This appeal is being made on behalf of and authorised by the following associated organisations:

List of endorsing organisations: