

Path to Treaty Bill 2023

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Endorsement of Path to Treaty Bill 2023



QUEENSLANDERS WITH DISABILITY NETWORK
NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

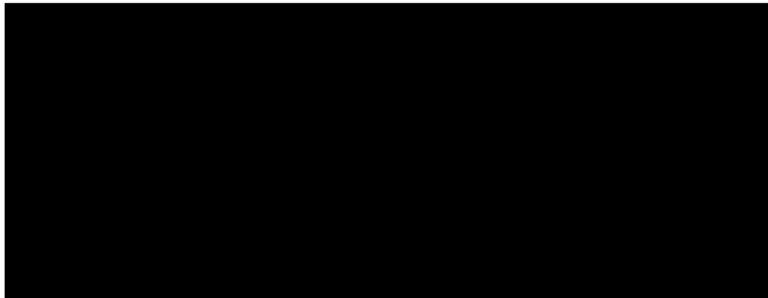
20.03.2023

Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee Secretary,

We welcome this opportunity to provide a response to the Path to Treaty Bill 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Moss
Chief Executive Officer
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About Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN)

QDN is an organisation of, by, and for people with disability. The organisation's motto is "nothing about us without us." QDN operates a state-wide network of members who provide information, feedback and views from a consumer perspective to inform systemic policy feedback to government and peak bodies. QDN also provides information and referral support to people with disability. This submission is informed by feedback from members. QDN has over 1400 members and supporters across Queensland, and all QDN's voting members are people with disability.

Value Statement on People with Disability

QDN's work in providing feedback and input into systemic policy issues is based upon the organisation's core values and the place of people with disability in an inclusive Australian society.

- All people with disability have a right to a place in the community and have contributions to make to the community. This is as empowered, free citizens who are valued, present, participating and welcomed as members of any dynamic and diverse society.
- Culturally and historically, people with disability are not afforded the same value, opportunities or access to community life, and inclusion in the community for people with disability has been conditional and vulnerable to withdrawal.
- Many people with disability in Queensland are still excluded from the most basic experiences of ordinary lives.
- Exclusionary practices must be challenged. What affects people with disability affects us all.
- Place is not just about accommodation: core to our values is people with disability are welcomed as ordinary citizens who contribute and actively participate. People with disability need their individuality, talents and lived experiences to be recognised and acknowledged.
- Responsibility to ensure people with disability have a place and belong lies within government (federal, state and local) and the community at large.

Path to Treaty

QDN acknowledges that Queensland is a diverse state and as a state-wide organisation representing people with disability, QDN welcomes the Path to Treaty. We are home to two of the oldest living cultures in the world, and it is time to acknowledge past and in spirit of truth and reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

QDN acknowledges that the time has come for a Treaty and engage with the Queensland Government, stakeholders and communities on the path to Treaty.

Our members are part of communities across this vast state. We recognise the journey is one the whole community needs to go on. The journey will be filled with emotion, and for many it will bring about pain and hurt. We hope it will start the process of healing within the community. As the past is discussed and the 'truth is told', QDN will work with our members and believes that truth-telling about our shared history is fundamental to this process.

The Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry may have significant impacts on people and be emotional and traumatic. QDN recommends safeguards and we refer the Committee to:

- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. June 2020. [*The experience of First Nations people with disability in Australia Issues paper*](#), and [*responses*](#).
- Avery S. 2020. (Research Report for the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability). [*Something Stronger: Truth-telling on hurt and loss, strength and healing, from First Nations people with disability*](#).

It is important that the process is accessible and inclusive for all Queenslanders with disability. QDN can support as part of our role as a state-wide organisation to work alongside the Queensland Government's commitment to addressing the wrongs of the past and reframing our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

QDN acknowledges the important role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability will have as part of the consultations, in the establishment of the Treaty Institute and Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry and the development of the treaty negotiation framework.

QDN supports:

- The establishment of a First Nations Treaty Institute, a Government Treaty Readiness Committee, Ministerial Consultative Committee, and an Independent Interim Body.
- The independence of the First Nations Treaty Institute from government and its governance being a Council drawn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The establishment of a Treaty Authority.
- The establishment of a Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry and the scoping of a local truth-telling healing process.
- Any amendments made to outdated legislation that is not compatible with upholding human rights.

We know the journey ahead is not easy, but it is one that QDN endorses with everyone having a seat at the table to build a more equal and inclusive Queensland for all.

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