

Queensland
Family & Child
Commission



Telephone: 07 3900 6000
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Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email: cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Community Support and Services Committee about the Path to Treaty Bill 2023.

The QFCC is a statutory body of the Queensland Government. Our purpose is to influence change that improves the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children and their families. Our Strategic Plan 2022-2026 outlines our explicit commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families and to embed culturally safe and responsive design, practices and delivery in our work. We recognise that self-determination, healing, dignity and respect are all fundamental elements needed to improve outcomes and relationships.

The QFCC is pleased to provide support for the Path to Treaty Bill 2023. We acknowledge the Bill as a significant and historic step for Queensland, one that builds on the hard work of generations of people working towards reconciliation and healing. We welcome its introduction to progress treaty negotiations and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to shape the future of their communities and Queensland as a whole.

The QFCC promotes accountability of the systems working with children, young people and families by overseeing and reporting on system performance. Through this work, the QFCC continues to observe the impacts of past policies and practices on present day drivers of overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in statutory systems, combined with their underrepresentation in decision making models that impact their lives.

The Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry proposed by this Bill will be uniquely positioned to investigate both historic practices—and their legacy—as well as contemporary decision making, to understand their impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Through our

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Yours sincerely



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17 March 2023

