



truth

justice

healing

How do we tell our
truth?

**Community consultations
open now until
17 December.**

ebony |

ABORIGINAL +
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
INSTITUTE

“ After the truth is told, there’s
got to be some thinking
about what justice looks like.
Do Aboriginal peoples just
want to spill our guts again if
nothing changes?

”

Professor Gregory Phillips (Ebony
Institute, Waanyi and Jaru peoples)





about our project

We've been on a six year journey to understand what our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities want from **truth-telling, and what justice and healing look like.**

After our first report, *Hear My Heart*, we're ready to hear more from you.

“ When the truth about colonisation was taught properly, young people felt empowered. This is really about inheritance. They’re responsible for continuing the longest culture and history in the world. ”

Hayley McQuire (NIYEC, Darumbal & South Sea Islander)



what is truth-tel ling?

Truth-telling means speaking and hearing the truth about conflict, genocide, trauma or abuse, or other wrongdoing.

It can be **formal** (set up by law or governments) or **informal** (set up at a grassroots level or through communities and activists).

Truth-telling can also be **part of other processes**, like Treaty or establishing representative bodies.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights says truth-telling bodies must be **unique, independent, safe, and be backed by international support and local political will**. They shouldn't replace other legal proceedings.

But there are real questions about whether we should tell the truth again and who should lead it.

“

All around our country, the main pillar to treaties is truth-telling. Without that, we have nothing.

”

Dr Jackie Huggins AM (QTAC, Bidjara and Birri Gubba)



what
we've
heard so
far

From yarns and written research
from experts, we learned —

Truth can't be told without **consequences.**

Truth **can't be told and then forgotten.**

Truth must be sought in a **trauma-informed
and culturally-secure way** — and support
truth-tellers.

Truth-telling must be done for a **wide-range
of factors, structures and events.**

Truth-telling has to have a strategy that
genuinely benefits First Nations.

Telling the truth has to mean **reckoning with
sovereignty.**

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hear it
from
them



“ We know that better things happen to our mob when we’re in control of the decisions that affect our daily lives. But [...] there’s unfinished business in this country. ”

Steve Rossingh (NT Treaty
Commission, Kamilaroi)

what do we want to know now?

We want to hear from any Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, organisation or Nation.

We want to know —

Are we all **ready** to tell and hear the truth?

Why should we do truth-telling at all?

How do we tell the truth and keep our **communities and Elders safe**?

What should happen **after** we tell the truth?

how can I be heard?

You can **write us a submission** that answers these questions and send it to **Indigenous.Research@uts.edu.au**.

To check if you can participate in our **group consultations**, email **Indigenous.Research@uts.edu.au**.

Submissions will close on
17 December 2021.