

15 August '24

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Our First Nations people should have control over their own lives. Many studies have indicated that their communities are more optimistic when they have "self-determination". It is totally understandable that people are happier when they feel in control of their own lives. Very little has been done to give power back to Indigenous people for governing their own lives.

The Albanese government pledged to support the Uluru Statement, which was a gesture from First Nations people indicating willingness to work together with the "colonists". The Albanese government now needs to back the Truth and Justice Commission Bill 2024. A Commission arising from this Bill should have the power to make recommendations to Parliament on matters relating to First Peoples. Action is needed!

For a long time First Peoples have been calling for the truth to be told. Telling the truth will help to confront the ways in which the colonial system continues to benefit non-Indigenous people at the expense of First Nations' rights. First Nations' perspectives could play a more central rôle in the way Australia operates...

Let us work together to make our society more just and more inclusive!

Yours sincerely,

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(Clea' Eykelkamp)