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SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR RECONCILIATION
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**LABOR WELCOMES VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S TRUTH-TELLING
COMMISSION**

Federal Labor congratulates the Victorian Labor Government on the announcement of a Truth and Justice Commission to examine the ongoing impacts of colonisation and successive government policies on First Australians in Victoria.

Truth-telling is a fundamental component of Reconciliation and healing.

It also forms one of three tenets of the Uluru Statement, which Labor supports in full.

It will have very real and significant practical benefits.

The impacts and consequences of our difficult past do not stay in the past.

They have transcended generations and can still be felt and seen today.

Truth-telling is critical to understanding the disadvantages suffered by First Nations people. The commission must examine the lies of terra nullius and the history of how people were dispossessed and disempowered.

We must understand the undeniable link between past trauma, the challenges of the present, and how this can guide the way we move forward.

It will also lay the important groundwork for Victoria's treaty process.

This is the first commission of its kind in Australia but Labor is hopeful that it is just the beginning of many such processes around the nation.

WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2021