COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950
Section 5(1)(d)

STATEMENT OF CHELSEA WATEGO

Name of Witness:	**Chelsea Watego**
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Current address:	[redacted]
Occupation:	**Professor, Director, Researcher and author**
Contact details (phone/email):	[redacted]
Statement taken by:	**Samantha Giunta**

I, **Chelsea Watego,** make oath and state as follows:

1. I am a Munanjahli and South Sea Islander woman.

2. I am a Director at the Institute for Collaborative Race Research (ICRR) in Meanjin, Brisbane and a leading researcher in race, racism and Indigenist Health Humanities.

3. I hold qualifications in Bachelor of Applied Health Science, Honours in Applied Health Science, PhD in Public Health.

4. I have worked as an Aboriginal Health worker and researcher in communities across south-east Queensland for the past 20 years. My work has focused on interpreting and privileging Indigenous experiences of the health system.

5. The Institute for Collaborative Race Research is led by scholars with extensive expertise in the ways that structural and political dynamics can impact judicial and other forms of official decision making. We research how race, racism, colonialism and Aboriginal sovereignty intersect in the areas of justice, health, social policy and media.

6. ICRR makes extensive contributions to public inquiries, coronial inquests and strategy development processes. Our submissions to this Inquiry and the QLD Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce are particularly relevant to the Commission, as they concern the criminalisation of coercive control and QPS conduct toward Aboriginal women.

7. ICRR has also contributed to the development of the Australian Human Rights Commission's National Anti-Racism Strategy which concerned police and state violence. We have previously prepared reports for the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council which examined the nature of the relationship between the Queensland Police Service and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

8. On 13 July 2022, ICRR and Sisters Inside provided a submission to the Commission of Inquiry. On 29 July 2022, ICRR forwarded a draft expert report to the Commission of Inquiry. The evidence that I wish to give to the Commission is outlined in the submission and draft report.

A copy of the submission to the Commission from ICRR and Sisters Inside is attached as Annexure A.

A copy of the Draft Report to the Commission from ICRR is attached as Annexure B.

***OATHS ACT* 1867 (DECLARATION)**

I, Chelsea Watego do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

(1) **This written statement by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief: and**

(2) **I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.**

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

.....Signature

Taken and declared before me at ..... this ..... day of .....,2022.

Taken By .....

Justice of the Peace / Commissioner for Declarations / Lawyer