

Sovereignty

Treaty

Social Justice



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Justice for Mulrunji! Stop *all* deaths in custody now!

Premier Peter Beattie, PO Box 15185, City East Qld 4002

We, the undersigned, welcome the decision of the Queensland Attorney General to lay charges against Senior Sergeant Chris Hurley for the death of Mulrunji in the Palm Island watch house on November 18, 2004.

We note that this is the *first* time a police officer has been charged in connection with an Aboriginal death in custody in Queensland. Charging police officers in connection with the death of an Indigenous person in custody is a rare event *anywhere* in Australia. On the first occasion, where WA police officers were charged in connection with the death of John Pat, an all white jury acquitted those charged.

We reject claims that the laying of charges against Senior Sergeant Chris Hurley shows that the justice system works. It does not. The movement to win justice for Mulrunji has achieved this result and must remain vigilant and mobilised.

Justice for Mulrunji must also mean justice for those who protested his death in custody. We call for all charges to be dropped against those in the Palm Island community who rose up to protest Mulrunji's killing. We demand compensation and that the convictions be quashed for those who have already been unjustly charged. We further call for the resignation of the partisan DPP, Leanne Clare.

Events surrounding the death of Mulrunji show that the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody have not been fully implemented. We call for their immediate implementation, including funding for trauma counselling for families affected by a death in custody.

We also demand the establishment of elected community civilian review boards with powers to hold the police to account.

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