

WHAT IS YOORROOK?

YOORROOK JUSTICE COMMISSION

- Is the first formal truth-telling process into past and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples in Victoria as a result of colonisation.
- Was set up by agreement between the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the Victorian Government, but is independent of the Assembly and of Government.
- Will deliver an interim report in June 2022 and a final report by June 2024.
- Is led by five Commissioners, of whom 4 are Aboriginal and 3 are Victorian First Peoples. The Commissioners bring a vast range of knowledge and experience about First Peoples' knowledge, systemic disadvantage, land rights, history, law, trauma and healing.

WHAT WILL YOORROOK DO?

Yoorrook's goals are understanding, truth and transformation. To achieve these goals, Yoorrook will:

- Establish an official public record of the impact of colonisation on First Peoples in Victoria.
- Develop a shared understanding among all Victorians on the impact of colonisation, as well as the diversity, strength and resilience of First Peoples' cultures.
- Make recommendations for healing, system reform and practical changes to laws, policy and education, as well as matters to be included in future treaties.

WHAT IS TRUTH-TELLING?

Truth-telling is a process of openly sharing truths after periods of conflict to allow for resetting of relationships, based on justice and human rights. It is the act of telling our true history, particularly the experiences of First Peoples which have been disregarded for many years. Victoria now joins many other societies in truth-telling to face its past and build a stronger future together.

Nuther-mooyoop -
Boonwurrung word
for 'truth'. This is
what is often referred
to as making
'a submission'.

HOW WILL YOORROOK GATHER INFORMATION?

- First Peoples can tell their truth to Yoorrook in a wide range of ways including making nuther-mooyoop (a submission), joining a Yarning Circle or other truth-telling forum. For more information see Information sheet 2: Different ways to tell your truth.
- Yoorrook will also require the Victorian Government and other institutions to give pil'kneango mirnk (evidence) about current and past practices and policies.
- Yoorrook will closely examine information that is already available, as well as seeking new information.

Pil'kneango mirnk -
Djab Wurrung for
'open eyes'. This is
what is often referred
to as 'evidence'.

WHAT IS YOORROOK DOING NOW?

- Yoorrook formally launched its truth-telling on 24 March 2022, the International Day for the Right to Truth.
- Yoorrook is hearing from Elders through community visits and submissions. An initial group of Elders will also provide their truth at a wurrek tyerrang (public hearing).
- Yoorrook will invite other First Peoples to tell their truth in the second half of 2022. The broader Victorian community will also be invited to participate.
- Support is available for all First Peoples participating in Yoorrook. See Information sheet 5: Keeping you safe and strong for more information.

Wurrek tyerrang -
Wergaia word for
'speaking together'.
This is what
Yoorrook will convene
as public hearings.