



Provided by:


 Victoria Legal Aid

LOTJPA INDEPENDENT LEGAL SERVICE

WE WROTE THIS FACT SHEET ON THE LAND OF THE WURUNDJERI AND BOON WURRUNG PEOPLE OF THE KULIN NATION. WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES AND TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS THROUGHOUT VICTORIA, INCLUDING ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT. WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE OF ALL FIRST PEOPLES.

What is Lotjpa Independent Legal Service?

Lotjpa Independent Legal Service offers legal advice and support to First Peoples who want to share their truth with the Yoorrook Justice Commission. We are free, confidential and culturally safe.

How can Lotjpa Independent Legal Service help?

We can talk to you about:

- your options if you want to say something to Yoorrook that might impact you or your legal rights
- other legal information, advice or support you might want.

Lotjpa staff may do this, or we may refer you to another service for help.

We are independent from Yoorrook. We will not give your information to Yoorrook unless you agree. We will not tell anybody what you tell us, unless you want us to.

When should I contact Lotjpa Independent Legal Service?

There are general legal protections for sharing your story, but it is important to talk to us before you share your story with Yoorrook if:

- you have questions about your legal rights if you share your story
- you want to keep your name or story private
- you want to talk about a current or past court case or legal agreement
- your story deals with something that is against the law or could lead to criminal charges against you
- your story involves a government official hurting you or treating you badly or hurting or treating someone else badly. Government officials can be police, PSOs, prison staff, health workers or welfare workers
- your story involves family violence. This could include emotional and financial abuse, as well as physical violence and sexual abuse
- your story involves someone abusing an older person. This could be an Elder or any older person who is treated badly by someone they trust
- your story involves a dispute with another person or organisation
- you want to name or criticise a person or organisation in your story
- you have already told parts of your story to another Court, Royal Commission or Parliamentary Inquiry
- you are worried about someone treating you badly if you share your story. For example, your work, school or a service that helps you.



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How to contact us

Lotjpa Independent Legal Service phone line (run by Victoria Legal Aid)

Phone: (03) 8373 7918

Email: lotjpa@vla.vic.gov.au

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Lotjpa Independent Legal Service

Phone: (03) 9418 5999

Email: lotjpa@vals.org.au

Do you need help phoning us?



National Relay Service

TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

Internet relay users: <https://nrschat.nrsccall.gov.au>

SMS relay: 0423 677 767

See www.relayservice.gov.au for more information.

What is the Yoorrook Justice Commission?

Yoorrook is the first formal truth-telling process into injustices First Peoples have experienced in Victoria.

Yoorrook will hear stories and gather information from First Peoples in Victoria on:

- their experience of past and ongoing injustices
- how their cultures and knowledge have survived.

Yoorrook will publish reports on the information they gather.

For more information about Yoorrook or sharing your story, visit: <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au>