



Provided by:



# 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.

Lotjpa Independent Legal Service is delivered by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and Victoria Legal Aid. You can speak with a lawyer from either VALS or VLA.

## 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.

Lotjpa can also assist you with making a submission to Yoorrook about your experiences.

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 if you share 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 and protections 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
- you have agreed with a person or an organisation not to talk about your story (e.g. because you received settlement money because of what happened to you)
- your story deals with something that is against the law or could lead to criminal charges against you or somebody else
- you want to name or criticise a person or organisation in your story
- 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 something which happened to you during your employment, or which you learned of through your employment
- you have already told parts of your story to another Court, tribunal, Royal Commission or Parliamentary Inquiry
- you are worried about someone treating you badly if you share your story. For example, a government agency, your work, school or a service that helps you.



Provided by:

 Victoria Legal Aid

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## How to contact us

### Lotjpa Independent Legal Service phone line (provided by Victoria Legal Aid)

Phone: (03) 8610 9830 (open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Thursday)

Email: [lotjpa@vla.vic.gov.au](mailto:lotjpa@vla.vic.gov.au)

### Lotjpa Independent Legal Service (provided by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service)

Phone: (03) 9418 5999 (open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday)

Email: [lotjpa@vals.org.au](mailto: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.nrscall.gov.au>

SMS relay: 0423 677 767

See [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au) for more information.

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## 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>