

# HAVE YOUR SAY - MAKE A SUBMISSION

## **What is a Submission?**

A submission is a record of your truth.

You can make a submission in whatever way you like. For example, you could:

- Write it down
- Video or audio record you telling your truth
- Make an artwork
- Share a photo

You can make a submission on any aspect of injustice that you have experienced.

## **Why Should I Make a Submission?**

Sharing your truth will help Yoorrook create a formal public record of injustice.

It will also help the Commission recommend real changes to the systems and laws affecting our people.

Being heard is the first step towards justice and transformation.

## **What Can I Share in my Submission?**

You can share truths and stories about any aspect of injustice you like.

For example, truths about:

- your local area
- your family's experiences
- racism, forced removal from home and land massacres, forced labour, cultural loss, intergenerational trauma
- stolen generations
- economic disadvantage and stolen wealth
- or anything else that you want

You can also share the truth about the strength, survival and resistance of our people.

Yoorrook is investigating injustice at a systems level. That means that Yoorrook cannot decide or resolve individual cases or give any form of compensation. However, if you have experienced injustice as an individual, we encourage you to make a submission about it - your experience can help to paint a picture of the problems with the system and help Yoorrook make recommendations for change.

## **How Can I Make a Submission?**

You can make your submission through the submission form on the Yoorrook website:

<https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/have-your-say/make-a-submission/> or by making an

appointment to speak with one of Yoorrook's Truth Receivers. To contact a Truth Receiver, please call 1800 966 775 or email [enquiries@yoorrook.org.au](mailto:enquiries@yoorrook.org.au).

### **What Help Can I Get to Make a Submission?**

#### **Help from a Truth Receiver**

Yoorrook's Truth Receivers can help you complete the submission form. If you want, they can also help to take a photo, video or audio recording of your submission.

Yoorrook's truth receivers are trusted community members. For more information and to make an appointment with our team, please call 1800 966 775 or email [enquiries@yoorrook.org.au](mailto:enquiries@yoorrook.org.au).

#### **Wellbeing Support**

Yoorrook offers free, confidential and safe social and emotional wellbeing support to people who want to tell their truth. This might look like a one-off yarn, ongoing counselling and support, or linking you with other services in your community.

To get wellbeing support, please call 1800 966 775 or email [sewb.yoorrook@fphw.org.au](mailto:sewb.yoorrook@fphw.org.au).

#### **Legal Support**

Lotjpa Independent Legal Service is a free and confidential legal service that can give you information and advice about sharing your story safely with us. This service is delivered by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and Victoria Legal Aid. You can speak with a lawyer from either VALS or VLA.

To get legal support contact: (VLA) 8610 9830 or email: [lotjpa@vla.vic.gov.au](mailto:lotjpa@vla.vic.gov.au) or (VALS): 9418 5999 or email: [lotjpa@vals.org.au](mailto:lotjpa@vals.org.au).

### **What Happens After I Make a Submission?**

Yoorrook will use the information in your submission to tell the story of how colonisation has impacted First Peoples, the strength and resilience of First Peoples, and the survival of cultures, knowledge and traditions.

Your truth-telling will also help the Commission make recommendations for practical changes to things like laws and policies.

To help all Victorians understand First Peoples' experiences of injustice, Yoorrook will also publish the submissions it receives on its website. Yoorrook will not make your submission public without your consent.