

TRUTH TELLING AT YOORROOK

What is Yoorrook?

Yoorrook is the first formal truth telling process into past and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples in Victoria as a result of colonisation.

Truth telling means speaking and listening to truth after periods of conflict, so that relationships can be rebuilt on justice and human rights. Yoorrook is inquiring into injustice that happened in the past and is still happening now.

Yoorrook was set up by the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the Victorian Government as an independent Royal Commission. It delivered an interim report in June 2022 and will deliver a final report by June 2024.

Yoorrook is led by five Commissioners – four are First Peoples and three are Victorian Traditional Owners. The Commissioners have a lot of understanding of First Peoples' knowledge, systemic disadvantage, land rights, history, law, trauma and healing.

What will Yoorrook do?

Yoorrook's goals are truth, understanding, 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 about 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.

Different Ways to Tell your Truth

First Peoples can tell their truth to Yoorrook in several ways::

Make 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
- Make a video or audio recording of your truth
- Make an artwork
- Share a photo

You can make a submission about any kind of injustice that you have experienced. You can make a submission on Yoorrook's website: www.yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au.

Join a Truth Telling Forum or Event

Yoorrook will advertise opportunities for First Peoples to tell their truth through forums or events such as yarnning circles, workshops, roundtables, visits to cultural sites or other cultural activities.

Public Hearings

Public hearings are formal events where Commissioners hear evidence from witnesses. Witnesses at public hearings can be First Peoples invited to tell their truth or representatives of the government or other institutions and organisations who are legally required to appear before the Commission.

Public hearings are generally open for people who want to come and watch them. They are also usually livestreamed via the Yoorrook website.

Respond to an Issues Papers

Issues papers are documents written about particular topic or thematic area. Individuals and organisations can submit feedback or truth telling in response to what is in the issues paper when they are opened for submissions.

We encourage all First Peoples to participate in Yoorrook's work. All ways of telling your truth are of equal importance. All contribute to Yoorrook's work. You can make a submission or find out more about all ways to tell your truth on the Yoorrook website:

www.yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au.

Get Help to Tell your Truth

You can get help to tell your truth. Yoorrook has staff called Truth Receivers who can help you make a submission. 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.

Yoorrook also 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.

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 or (VALS): 9418 5999 or email: lotjpa@vals.org.au.