

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission

From: Alison Markwick

Dated: 24/1/24

Submission:

I attach a copy of my PhD thesis entitled "Determinants of the gap in health and wellbeing between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults who live in the Australian state of Victoria – the contribution of the social determinants of health". I also attach copies of all five peer-reviewed publications that are the five results chapters.

I am also the author of the following report that was written in consultation and collaboration with the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Division of the Victorian Department of Health. It can be accessed here:

<https://vahi.vic.gov.au/reports/population-health/health-and-wellbeing-aboriginal-victoriansfindings-victorian-population-health-survey-2017>

Two findings of note that may be particularly relevant are that: (1) experiences of racism explained approximately one-third of the gap in health between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians, and that is likely a highly conservative estimate; and (2) dropping out of secondary education was protective against experiences of racism.

I make this submission in honour of my dear friend, colleague, and co-author of two of the attached papers who tragically passed away unexpectedly on December 3rd last year at the young age of 54 years. Darren Clinch was a proud Badimia man from Yamatji country who taught me so much and was always so gracious and kind, particularly when I occasionally put my foot in it—correcting and educating me when needed. Hopefully I am a better ally now thanks to Darren.

Please feel free to contact me and if there is anything I can do in terms of unpacking the information contained in the attachments I am sending you, I am at your service.

Best Wishes

Alison