



TRANSCRIPT OF SUBMISSION

WILFRED CARTER

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- 5 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Hi. Today I'm with Wilfred Carter, from Bairnsdale, and we're presently down by the Mitchell River. Okay, now, Wilfred, were you named after anybody?
- 10 **WILFRED CARTER:** No. I (indistinct 00:00:25) James Carter. I think I got it from my grandfather.
- 15 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay, where were you born?
- 20 **WILFRED CARTER:** Well, although I was born at Lake Tyers, I was told I was born in Bairnsdale. Either way I was born in Gippsland. We'd rather take them on being at home, Lake Tyers. Okay.
- 25 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Where were you? You raised.
- 30 **WILFRED CARTER:** Up until I was nine I was back and forth between homes. Most of us at Lake Tyers going back to the mission. Every year I suppose and leaving it. So up until my early teens, I grew up back and forwards then from there on in I spent most of my life in Bairnsdale.
- 35 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay thank you, What are your memories of your childhood?
- 40 **WILFRED CARTER:** Oh, yeah. Pretty fast. A lot of it had anxiety, pressure. It was pretty hard growing up not knowing what the rules were. But I had fun.
- 45 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay, what was your connection with Aboriginal culture growing up?
- 50 **WILFRED CARTER:** Didn't have much connection. I'm only learning stuff today when I should have learned many years ago. There's really not much culture out there that I know of. If there's a need to know more. Well, I really need to know more now. But at the moment, I don't know who I am.
- 55 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay, What is your connection with Aboriginal culture now, and what role does it play in how you live your life?
- 60 **WILFRED CARTER:** It's about finding out who I am, I'm finding my identity first. Find out where I fit in because there's not many people my age that to find out this type of stuff, Information.
- 65 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Who are your parents?
- 70 **WILFRED CARTER:** Oh, yeah. [REDACTED], and none of us was asked. (indistinct 00:02:51).

COLLEEN HARNEY: Okay, now this is in regards to your mum who is there mob and what is their background?

5 **WILFRED CARTER:** I don't know much. I've only found out that we're part of Wotjobaluk. Oh, I hope I pronounced that right. So, I'm here from my mother's side. Dimboola area.

COLLEEN HARNEY: What do you know about your mother's upbringing?

10 **WILFRED CARTER:** Nothing.

COLLEEN HARNEY: Now this in regards to your dad who is there mob and what is their background?

15 **WILFRED CARTER:** Well, I'm not sure if that comes under Gunaikurnai or Monaro but it's Ewing. So being from Lake Tyers, I think we would have come under Gunaikurnai, but. There's also that word Kuranai.

20 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay. What do you know about your dad's upbringing?

WILFRED CARTER: Same as I know about my mother's. Not a great deal. A little bit more. He lived a little longer, but not a great deal, only stories I hear.

25 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay. Do you have any brothers or sisters?

WILFRED CARTER: I have three sisters, two older brothers died and two of my younger sisters died in the past 15 years.

30 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay, What is your relationship with them?

WILFRED CARTER: What do you mean?

COLLEEN HARNEY: How do you get on with them?

35 **WILFRED CARTER:** Well, I'm the only boy left in my family so, I don't know. They seem to be protecting me, and I don't know if I'm protecting them. So we have a great relationship.

40 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay, great. Now, this is in regards to reflections. What areas or topics would you like to focus on in your submission? Examples: racism, forced removal from home, cultural loss, intergenerational trauma.

45 **WILFRED CARTER:** All of them. Because. I've went through all of that. Culture, identity, Racism, right now, I still don't know where I belong, just so hard to understand so, I just want to find out who I am first before I can do what I can.

COLLEEN HARNEY: Now thinking about your answer to the question above. What injustices have you personally experienced?

5 **WILFRED CARTER:** Personal injustice was the main one was separated from my family. And then going from place to place, not knowing. Where I belonged here. Whether I belong at home, (indistinct 00:06:17), Melbourne. I didn't have the security of my family. I had nothing, I'm still trying to understand why it all happened in this way, if I can get answers, I'm going to ask all the questions to those answers I want so, somebody's going to have to answer for me.

10 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** That's great Now, thinking about your question, your answer to the questions above. What injustices have your family experienced?

15 **WILFRED CARTER:** Well, I can't really speak for this forum since past, four of us are still alive today with our own different stories, and I can't speak on what they went through because they won't tell me the. Well, they had told me some stories, but not all of them, so I really can't answer on that part.

20 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay.

WILFRED CARTER: And on my own behalf.

25 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Right. Now, this is in regards to transformation. What are your hopes for the Aboriginal communities in this country?

WILFRED CARTER: Stand as one, that's what we've got to do.

30 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay, what do you think needs to happen to correct the injustices you and your family have experienced?

35 **WILFRED CARTER:** Injustice my family experienced, compensation would be great. But then how do you compensate destruction that your people have done? How do you put that into cents? How do you make dollars equal the amount of destruction, the hurt that you put us through? What's going to bring them all back? How's it going to be fixed? There's nothing in the world that can do that. There's nobody. But we need to find out the truth as to why he's done it. I want to know the truth. Why it was done. I have that right.

40 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay. Now, Wilfred, what would you do if you were the premier of Victoria to make change and progress?

45 **WILFRED CARTER:** I don't want anything to do with politics, they put them in there for a reason, and sometimes they fail. Well, Victoria was in a lockdown. That was horrible. So, If I was Premier of Victoria. No, that ain't going to happen, everybody will stand back because I believe the safety in numbers. Too much pressure on one person. You're going to ask for trouble. so I don't believe it, no good because it's. Not fair on him and it's not fair on the people. It's not fair on anybody,

really. When you have one man making a decision for everybody, that ain't the way you need to go.

5 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay. What laws need to change and where does money need to be invested?

10 **WILFRED CARTER:** I don't think they should change the laws. I think it should educate everybody with the laws the way so it's meant to suit everybody. Not just people of colour, not just individual people. You're going to have the law that's got to suit everybody. If you want to change them, well that's up to you. But you got to make sure that everybody's in agreeance with. Everybody in the country, not just state by state. Everybody's got to say change the law, be stupid, but also be dangerous. But we need the law, Because otherwise we'd have anarchy. If we didn't, we'd be going back to the old days where we could go around, shoot people. But right now we need our laws, whether they apply to everybody differently. Well, we still need them, compensation wise. If you're going to compensate people, do it. I know you know your information and all that or whether it's warranted, but, don't promise them that you're going to be compensated for the destruction that you've been through and get nothing. You're going to be true to your word, be true to your word. Just don't let people down. It's not any of us electing anymore I think that's what's going on right now is that you're waiting for people who (indistinct 00:11:34) and horror go, then, we haven't got any legal background to stand on. The truth is gone then. Put the record straight down and pay compensation. I want to know who's going to compensate me on my loss of my culture, my identity, my language, this is the important thing to me. But instead you compensate that by teaching me religion had nothing to do with me. Your laws had nothing to do with me until I was old enough to understand. Now, I appreciate the laws. So I hope you guys appreciate what I'm telling you.

30 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay.

WILFRED CARTER: It's all the truth.

35 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Thank you, Now, what obstacles do we as a community face to make change?

40 **WILFRED CARTER:** Well, first of all, we got to stop looking at other people in the wider community looking. Our own Aboriginal community. We've got our own problems that we need to sort out. You can't go fighting around. We can't be dividing each other. You know. We need to stand as one unit, it makes a lot more sense because it hurts when you see all your people going against each other for no good reason when the white man's just watching it. They've done their deeds so if we can all just get together as one new little boy for all of us, not only in the state but in the whole country.

45 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay, Good. Thank you.

WILFRED CARTER: We have our leaders it's just that those guys are not getting a chance.

5 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay. Now, Wilfred, do you have any other documents, photographs, cultural artefacts you would like to include with your submission?

WILFRED CARTER: No, I don't have any of that.

10 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay. Thank you. Wilfred.

WILFRED CARTER: You're welcome. -

COLLEEN HARNEY: for your recording.

15 **WILFRED CARTER:** My voice.