



## The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Jobs and Industry  
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples  
Minister for Women

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The Hon Matt Keogh MP  
Minister for Defence Personnel  
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Dear Minister,

I am writing to inform you of the Yoorrook Justice Commission's (Commission) current lines of inquiry into inequitable outcomes experienced by First Peoples in relation to the joint State and Commonwealth Soldier Settlement Schemes.

As you are aware, the Commission is Australia's first formal truth-telling process into systemic injustices experienced by Aboriginal people since colonisation. The Commission is investigating both contemporary and historical injustices experienced by First Peoples since colonisation, across all areas of social, political and economic life.

As part of its current line of inquiry on Land Injustice, the Commission is looking at Aboriginal veterans' access to schemes that granted land to returned soldiers after the First and Second World Wars.

I am following up a commitment made to the Commission by my predecessor to raise First Peoples' inequitable treatment in relation to the schemes at the Commonwealth level.

Soldier Settlement Schemes were a joint State-Commonwealth initiative. Any potential recommendations made by the Commission in its next report (due March 2025) may require a joint Commonwealth and State response.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further once the Commission's recommendations are published in March 2025.

I am also writing to your colleagues, the Hon. Richard Marles and the Hon. Linda Burney on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and your support of Victoria's truth-telling and Treaty process.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP**  
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples  
07/03/2024

cc: Hon. Natalie Suleyman MP, Minister for Veterans