

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Anonymous 622****Dated: 31 May 2024****Submission:**

I am a teacher and have been teaching for [REDACTED] years. In my years of teaching I have been outwardly targeted by being called a 'dumb Abo bitch' and heard teachers on multiple occasions blame the Aboriginal students and make comments like 'it is always the Aboriginal kids' but mostly I have been subjected to and witnessed systematic racism.

It is due to moving my family onto a mission and then them escaping the stolen generation that I am without knowledge of my culture. Many students are the same.

I believe it is the governments knowledge of my culture. Many students are the same. I believe it is the governments responsibility to ensure that students are given the opportunity to practice and learn culture while at school as many of their family's can no longer provide that connection. Unfortunately, schools do not see it this way.

Currently at my school I have been at for [REDACTED], has on several occasions flown our flag upside down. After telling several people in leadership, it remained upside down for weeks. When explaining to my principal that it was in the agreement that I must receive money or time if other assistant principals and teachers continue to seek out my help with their lesson planning and understanding of Aboriginal perspectives, I was asked if I had a magic wand what would I like to see. I listed several things to which he wrote down and then proceeded to tell me that I could not receive money nor time. I was then once again, I asked to contribute to Reconciliation Week on several occasions by another assistant principal, again after my insistence that it is now in the agreement to protect our cultural load.

The using of Aboriginal people for their knowledge has been constant in my teaching. Schools will then buy a painting or have a speaker but do nothing to actually enhance the lives of Aboriginal students. Time and money is not spent on helping them feel connected to culture, to increasing their numeracy and literacy skills or to encouraging them to finish high school. KESOs are over worked and are not able to truly make an impact at any school.

The Victorian Curriculum and VCAA places 'Aboriginal perspectives' into its curriculum without giving teachers training or resources to teach it correctly, and school deny PDs that teachers apply for to increase their knowledge. This is the few teachers that do as most choose ignorance as they are 'too busy' to teach themselves yet I as the Aboriginal teacher am expected to teach them for free.

From my [REDACTED] schools that I have worked at, there is only one school that I have felt safe and celebrated for being Aboriginal and using my knowledge to make the school safer for Aboriginal students. I am considering leaving to join an Aboriginal organisation so that I can work in a place that I feel culturally safe.

END OF SUBMISSION