

**Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission****From: Campaspe/Loddon Aboriginal Communities****Dated: 4 June 2024****Submission:**

Before the Dhelk Dja there were the IFVRAG's. Each year funds are put out to help Aboriginal Communities to run projects around the prevention of fv and sa, with 11 regions getting funded except for this round. The Campaspe/Loddon region got nothing. The other 10 regions got \$200,000 each so why didn't our communities? The North Division Aboriginal unit sacked all of the Aboriginal community members as well as got rid of the support worker.

Why didn't the manager get out and run the application process? This funding could have been used to make healthy meals to feed our kids in schools. It has been proven that by giving children healthy meals they can concentrate in schools and settle down during class to learn.

To have Government, including Aboriginal staff and Aboriginal units being run by so many non-Aboriginal people, overturn Aboriginal community self determination so that they go higher and higher in their agencies goes against all that our Elders fought for.

The workers that support these groups, always women, have not had their roles looked at in about 15 years yet the work that they have to do is increased all the time. The Dhelk Dja Chairpersons are paid a tiny sitting fee but only when they go to a meeting. The reading time and pre-meeting work is never paid. Why is it that the Chairpersons never get to speak to you and that it is government workers telling you what they want you to hear to make them sound so good?

The recommendations made on how this strategy was to be run was put forward in the Task Force Report but the government ignored these and turned it into their tick the box. How can Truth Telling put this back on track and put it back into the hands of Aboriginal Community Members?

<https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-cif>- this is where the list is.

How can ACCO's be funded in everything and take the money from community? They get funded millions of dollars and community gets nothing.

**END OF SUBMISSION**