



TRANSCRIPT OF SUBMISSION

CLIFF WANDIN

Transcript Produced by
LAW IN ORDER PTY LIMITED

ACN 086 329 044

T: 1300 004 667

W: www.lawinorder.com.au

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COLLEEN HARNEY: Hi. Today I'm with Cliff Wandin, in Traralgon. Cliff, I'd like to ask you some questions. Were you named after anybody?

5 **CLIFF WANDIN:** No. Not really. Apparently my sister said I was Cliff Richards when I was young, so she named me after Cliff Richards when I was a young fella.

COLLEEN HARNEY: Okay, good. Where were you born?

10 **CLIFF WANDIN:** I was born at Rokeby on a little, settlement outside Warragul. I was born under a bridge. We all lived on the riverbank at Rokeby. Everybody worked on the sawmills there.

COLLEEN HARNEY: Okay. Where were you raised?

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CLIFF WANDIN: Lake Tyers, Traralgon.

COLLEEN HARNEY: What are your memories of your childhood?

20 **CLIFF WANDIN:** All I remember is working. That's all I did at the age of four. I remember living at Lake Tyers, going to school. I was scared of white people, going to kindergarten. I used to hide under the house when the bus would come to pick me because I was scared of white people.

25 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** What was your connection with Aboriginal culture growing up?

30 **CLIFF WANDIN:** Had a lot of stories from my mom, dad, grandparents, all my uncles and aunties, a lot of stories that, used to make, used to go instead of painting or. I was good at making weapons. I was good at making artefacts. I couldn't paint, but I was good at making artefacts. So spears, boomerangs, you name it, I made it all.

35 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** What is your connection with Aboriginal culture now, and what role does it play in how you live your life?

CLIFF WANDIN: I didn't paint but I was good at making weapons, spears and boomerangs you name it I made it.

40 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay, Who are your parents?

CLIFF WANDIN: Well, my mum, she was Francis (indistinct 00:02:14). She was born at Framlingham. And so my dad was Joseph Wandin. And he was born at, Corinda.

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

5 **CLIFF WANDIN:** My grandfather on my mum's was Gunditjmara his name was Lindsay Moubourne, mum's mother was Muriel Harrison. She was born at Ebenezer Wotjobaluk mob. My grandfather, her father and my great grandfather born at Lake Condah.

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

CLIFF WANDIN: She told me that she grew up there down the western border. I don't really know too much about her, except that she, Auntie Connie Albert's. You know, she's a very old, famous, old respected elder down in Portland way. My mum nursed her mother on her deathbed when she was 14, when my mum nursed her and
15 nursed her Auntie Connie Alberts on her deathbed and Auntie Connie told me about that first time I met her. And, she moved down to Lake Tyers then in her teens and met my father and they got married at Lake Tyers.

20 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay. This is in regards to your dad, who is his mob and what is his background?

CLIFF WANDIN: My dad was Wurundjeri. He was a saw-miller. My grandfather was Billy Wandin. My great grandfather was Robert Wandoon.

25 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Yeah. Do you have any brothers or sisters? And what is your relationship with them?

30 **CLIFF WANDIN:** Yeah. My family. There was 11 of us in my family. There's only me and my younger sister left out of 11. So I'm the oldest and, all my family, we had a good childhood, although we all, as brothers and sisters all my brothers, we all (indistinct 00:04:40) each other and fought around. But we'd back each other in the fight, you know, we weren't scared of nobody but all my sisters, we all took care of each other and the kids we all looked out as family should.

35 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Right now. This part is about reflections. What area or topics would you like to focus on in your submission regarding racism, forced removal from home, cultural loss, intergenerational trauma?

40 **CLIFF WANDIN:** I think that there is a really good question that I feel we need to heal first so we can help each other, because we all we tend to fight. We tend to do everything instead of one thing at a time. We tend to do everything in the one go. I think we need to heal first and like Australia Day just went and I thought, why can't the country just heal together? You know, that could be a major step if we just heal together, but still focus on what's going around, the problem is how many years have

we spoke about it? And we're still. Have we got a foot, we got our foot in the door or are we still on the Outer Banks of that?

5 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay. Thank you. Thinking about your answer to the question above, what injustices have you personally experienced?

10 **CLIFF WANDIN:** I just think, a lot of broken promises, they come in, they want housing, education, work, jobs. All these broken promises, they say every year that black fathers will get, and we don't get nothing. And they've just broken promises. I'm just sick of hearing the same stories over and over again.

COLLEEN HARNEY: Again, thinking about your answer to the question above. What injustices have your family experienced?

15 **CLIFF WANDIN:** Oh, yeah. My family I don't want to talk about that.

COLLEEN HARNEY: Okay. That's fine, this is in regards to transformation. What are your hopes for the Aboriginal communities in this country?

20 **CLIFF WANDIN:** I think first with the yes and no vote. How many Blackfellas fought against each other, but nobody knew what they were voting for. Those people didn't come out and tell us what was good about it. What was bad about it? What did yes mean? What did no mean? Nobody knew? I didn't even know. And I've asked a lot of people, so I think we're going to do that instead of just. And we have all these
25 people, main actors up there. Why do they have all the say, why couldn't we have a say in the country? You know what's wrong with our voice, haven't we got a voice or. We have to go through the main actors all the time who are on, you know, \$200,000 a year who are rich blackfellas, you know. So what have they done for the grassroots people? Because we only hear about Melbourne, Sydney and all these big
30 towns, but we don't hear them like Lake Tyers or Bairnsdale or Traralgon. You know, we don't hear about Blackfellas who live in the, in the regions.

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

40 **CLIFF WANDIN:** I think the injustices, as blackfellas, we've got to stand up. But how many times have we stood up and got and got and got beaten down? How many injustices have been there? How many times have we went and fought the fight, march the march? Have we moved forward from those injustices? I don't know, and I don't think we will for a while. Until we actually heal together.

COLLEEN HARNEY: Good. Thank you, what would you do if you were the premier of Victoria? To make change and progress.

45 **CLIFF WANDIN:** I think that's a really good question. To make change and progress, try and heal the country. Let's heal together to say that we can move

together, we can work together and we can live together, but let's have a voice together too. But we've got to heal the country. We've got to heal ourselves, to move forward.

5 **COLLEEN HARNEY:** Good. Thank you, what laws need to change? And where does money need to be invested?

10 **CLIFF WANDIN:** Just the old school days, black fella didn't need money, Money is the root of all evil. Look what it does to their own people, governments, white people. Give them black fellers money. They go do all the dirty work, and those black fellas, they don't care who they hurt, but they're going to do the dirty work because they got to do good dollars. But we need money to, to move. That's the way we live now. It's just that's how we live. And you need money but why so much? Why can't we share? You know, that's a really hard question to answer. But money is
15 the root of all evil.

COLLEEN HARNEY: Okay. Thank you, what obstacles do we as a community face to make change?

20 **CLIFF WANDIN:** To make change with obstacles? Especially Australia Day, when blackfellas march. Whitefellas laugh, they laugh at us because they think it's a joke. They don't realise, why we're marching, do they march on Anzac Day and party and get drunk and blah, blah, blah? They don't on Anzac Day because it's a death day and that's what Australia Day was. They brought death to this country. And I always say
25 this when people get smart and when the Japanese bombed Darwin, Pearl Harbour, what would have happened if they would have took the country over? Would you celebrate Japanese Day if they said and they said, no, but you did it to us. White fellas did to us. But they don't like it. They wouldn't like that. I only put it out there just to see what the reaction was, they won't do it, I won't celebrate. I said that's what
30 you did to us. And we don't want to celebrate Australia Day.

COLLEEN HARNEY: Thank you. Do you have any other documents, photographs, cultural artefacts you would like to include with your submission?

35 **CLIFF WANDIN:** No, I've got nothing.

COLLEEN HARNEY: All right. Thank you so much, Cliff.

40 **CLIFF WANDIN:** No worries.