

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Anonymous 947****Dated: 10 September 2024****Submission:**

Mob: Palawa connection is all I know

What does it feel like to be an Aboriginal person living in Victoria?:

It feels like there is still a lot of racism in Victoria especially in County Victoria and the far east.

Experiences:

For me, loss of my identity and connection to community and culture has been devastating throughout my life. I am still tracing my family heritage in Tasmania. I suspect like many others in this Country that my families Aboriginal Heritage was hidden and denied because of the governments assimilation policies. Aboriginal Heritage was hidden and denied so that families could assess their basic human rights denied to so many others. Basically many who were able to blend in with white Australia chose to do so, so that they could give their families a better life and attempt to avoid the destruction and devastation rampant in their communities at the time. Many families and peoples are still in the process of reconnecting and are still journeying to find their way back to their communities.

Self Determination:

Self-determination looks like Aboriginal answers to Aboriginal problems. It looks like letting Aboriginal orgs and traditional owner orgs do things their way regardless of how governments want them to report for funding. Orgs should be free to report in de-colonised ways not mainstream ways.

Changes for future generations:

I would like children in schools to learn the true history of this Country.

END