

**Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission****From: Anonymous 985****Dated: 3 October 2024****Submission:**

I moved from my country where my ancestors lived for hundreds of years to a place, I thought, was going to accept me. My country is small and full of drugs, sexual assaults, and all other dimensions of abuse. I grew up knowing who I was and proudly exclaimed, "I am Aboriginal". Only to be told to prove it. I justified it as much as I could as if I had to be accepted by someone who probably didn't value me as a person, let alone, an Aboriginal person.

I was called every name under the sun throughout my childhood in the early 2000's; boong, coon, abo, black bitch. I learnt quickly that to survive rural NSW, I couldn't be proud of who I am. I had to shut up, keep my head down and assimilate. And I tried to do so.. but I couldn't stop arguing with people who hated my existence. I also HAD to argue, especially in school. If my cousin's, who were darker than me, tried to argue with a racist idiot they would be sent to the Principle. When I argued, the same teacher would let me yell my point, let me insult the person then they would tell me to sit down. It wasn't fair.

Most of my cousin's are still in that town, most of them have been victims of domestic violence, rape, abuse. And almost all have been incarcerated. I moved to Naarm 8 years ago, I thought I could be myself. I told my employer that I was Aboriginal after he hired me. I not only received many racist, 'alcohol sniffing' jokes thrown my way, but he then asked me to own a business with him so we can "get into that social procurement money" I left after having a mental breakdown.

I now work at a University where most of us fight everyday to get people handling big builds to actually try to achieve their social procurement targets and support blak businesses. The colonial load that we feel everyday working in an institute will drive us crazy and dampen our identity. Please investigate the social procurement numbers provided by all Universities who claim they are doing right by us. Because in my experience, they aren't even trying to spend money with Blak businesses.

**END**