

**Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission****From: Bonneville Chew****Dated: 23 September 2024****Submission:**

In the 1980s, I was a 7-year-old child, and I attended Cottage by The Sea in Queenscliff. This was to be a respite to our families and give me time to have fun and meet others. Unfortunately, my stay at this place was less than favourable. It was scary and things happened to children, which should have never happened. I was not the only Aboriginal child at this place, my older brother and at least another child I met, was Aboriginal. I'm not writing this to the best of my ability, as it is traumatic to talk about.

Just a few dot points:

- They didn't allow us to have our own clothes, we had to wear clothes provided.
- They made us undress and stand naked in front of our lockers, some girls were teens, with the doors open for all passer by people to see.
- We had to line up and one by one bath in the same water, I vaguely remember there being a ladder in and out.
- I was always a good eater, never fussy, but they made us eat horrendous food. I remember having to do cooking duties, cooking toast under a big grill and for some reason it was stored in a black garbage bag.
- I had eczema in private areas, they made me put my cream on, in front of all present in the sitting room, males and females.
- I sprained my ankle on the trampoline, and they made me keep jumping, as it was my allocated time.
- They would place their hands in our beds each morning, to see if we'd wet the bed.

I think it's time I spoke about this, as I know there are so many others that want to speak and have no voice.

**END**