

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Abbey****Dated: 2 November 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

I undertook a sociology class in high school that spoke about the colonisation of Australia in general and the impact to First Peoples, however it was not specific to the state of Victoria. Everything I've been learning have been from others within the activist space and my own research.

What has been your experience learning about First Nations history and culture in Victoria's education system? Do you feel it was comprehensive?

No. During my time in highschool there's been moments in which I'd had to correct the teacher who would be teaching us theories which were rooted in racism. These experiences made it challenge to understand the truth of what was being taught. To the present, it makes it a bit challenge to understand what is the truth due to the amount of information is out there.

What changes would you like to see in Victoria to promote better understanding and respect for First People's?

It would be great if there was accessible resources that debunk a lot of the theories that teachers and academic still cling onto and teach. When students don't have a reference point to be able to go to and seek clarification, it makes it hard to want to genuinely engage with the topic.

In what ways do you think non-First Nations Victorians can contribute to the process of truth-telling and treaty?

By leading conversations with each other that allow us to openly discussing the things that we don't know. Sometimes it feels very shameful to admit that we don't know something, especially when it links to our national identity.

In what ways could First Peoples history and culture be promoted in Victoria?

In every aspect. I don't have an answer to expand on how that could play out.

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