

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Anonymous 1060****Dated: 31 October 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

I know it happened.

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

No

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

First People's cultures need to be understood in context. Those cultures no longer exist as they did before occupation and displacement because the contact with European culture transformed First Peoples lives irrevocably.

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

A balanced view of the impact of contact and change is needed - there have been deeply negative loss of identity and spiritual values and connection that cannot be underplayed even as the lifestyles of First Nations Victorians today have incorporated the benefits of Western civilisation and there is no one living as their ancestors did. We should step back until the hurt and anger of loss moves to acceptance and reconciliation. The grief needs to go through its usual development and we cannot judge the path of others.

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

The incredible benefits of traditional fire land management should be extolled and implemented and celebrated. This shows that respect for land can work better. First Peoples already accept that their culture pre-contact had socially unacceptable elements of misogyny, violence and child abuse alongside a nostalgic view of sustainably living in harmony with the land. A balanced view of the past will appreciate the incredible achievement of tens of thousands of years of culture and tribalism and learning from neolithic practices.

END OF SUBMISSION