

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Anonymous 1069****Dated: 2 November 2024****Submission:****How could First Peoples' history and culture be better taught at school?**

Where do I begin? Our current system is better than it was in the 70s when I was at school, but it is still lacking. Teachers lack the knowledge and understanding to teach First Nations history and culture. They are coming from a lifetime of mis truths and lies. Schools must build stronger ties with local mob. We as a society need to work with First Nations people to create true and accurate education material and it must be compulsory in all year levels and schools. It must be imbedded in the curriculum, not a once a year subject. Teachers need better training and cultural education at university, taught by First Nations people. Again this content needs to be created with First Nations people. As a former teacher and ally, I know it's well past time that our education system underwent change.

How could Aboriginal kids be better supported at school?

First Nations kids need to feel respected, heard and valued. This can only come with understanding and knowledge. Teachers need support and education to understand the complexities of First Nation family systems and better understanding of inter generational trauma. These are things I knew NOTHING about until about 15 years ago, and I'm constantly learning still. Again, the schools need strong First Nations relationships and First Nations support workers either at the school or at the very least visiting regularly- weekly not monthly or twice a year.

How else could we improve the Victorian education system for First Peoples?

Dismantle the bias and racism that exists in the system. The whole education approach needs change.

END