

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Anonymous 1116****Dated: 4 November 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

The true impact of colonization is something I am still learning and understanding. I knew what had been taught to me through my formal education, but I am fortunate enough to have a workplace that is dedicated to reconciliation and offers many opportunities to learn more about our First Nations communities.

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

I feel it was more of an high level overview. I am unsure as to what the curriculum entails now, but I imagine it's more than what I experienced.

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

I would like to see our leaders do more than talk. First Nations peoples are desperately in need of action. As a white woman of privilege I don't profess to know what is best for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, I instead believe that we should seek to understand what is priority for them and do our best to ensure those things happen.

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

Be responsible for educating ourselves in the true history of this country and stop expecting others to carry the load. Be supportive of our First Nations peoples and walk beside them in their journey. The more allies that come forward to assist will aid in the fight against systemic oppression and racism.

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

I personally feel as though it is everyone's responsibility to promote history and culture and to call out the damaging behavior of others- especially those within our political system who are blatantly and unashamedly racist.

END OF SUBMISSION