

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Anonymous 1140****Dated: 6 November 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

The captains/sailors that landed in Victoria largely took ownership of the land from the First Nations peoples. They enslaved some of them, fought & killed some of them, and also tried to assimilate them into their white society. There are massacres noted in our history that happened during this fight for land, etc.

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

I barely learnt anything about First Nations history while at school (during the 80's and very early 90's). I've learnt more as an adult rather than as a child. I did schooling in Perth and Melbourne, so in both educational systems, the history wasn't taught, only some of the culture was touched on eg native animals, boomerangs, kangaroo/emu hunting, traditional dress and ceremony paint. I know it's a lot more comprehensive nowadays.

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

Every item of History that's taught in schools about Australia needs to include First Nations history as well, so our children are receiving an unbiased and fulsome history lesson. First Peoples cultures should be embedded into our schools to recognise and learn about a longtime culture in Australia that we should be proud to have here. It should be policy that all schools in Victoria should have a PT or FT First Nation teacher/educator to represent First Nations in schools, and teach about culture, history, language etc.

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

All schools in Victoria should have a PT or FT First Nation teacher/educator to represent First Nations in schools, and teach about culture, history, language etc. Schools to implement First Nations guest speakers to talk informally with school students about their culture, stories and traditions.

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

Do what we're currently doing on a larger scale - eg welcome to country ceremonies at all major/important events; all local council websites and newsletters etc have a page dedicated to the First Nations people, history on their council lands; erecting signage and implementing re-naming to include the First Nations language name for those places named in English.

END OF SUBMISSION