

**Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission****From: Anonymous 1141****Dated: 6 November 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

I finished highschool in 1996 - unfortunately the story that was told in the 80's was that the 'poor Aboriginal children' were put up for adoption because their family could not look after them. It wasn't until I started Uni and was well into my 20's that the truth about colonisation was more widespread and not in a cloud of 'alternate opinion.' I am learning about the massacre of communities, about diseases were deliberately spread to eradicate mob. This horrible history needs to be told, to be remembered and never repeated.

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

Not in the slightest. I had no idea I grew up with a member of the stolen generation until the penny dropped in my 20's. My children are learning more about it now though which is good.

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

Own the history. Atone for it and give First People their identify back. Allow records to be corrected. We have so much to learn about healing country, we need to shut up and listen.

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

Listen. Learn and walk together to fix systemic flaws in systems.

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

Story telling through dance, food. Story telling at place - let non First Natures people learn about the historical significance of places around them. Give places back their traditional names. Allow First People the opportunity to connect to country including culturally significant species.

**END OF SUBMISSION**