

**Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission****From: Anonymous 1144****Dated: 8 November 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

I know a little information about the early period of colonisation of the Melbourne city area. I understand the ongoing impacts of violence and dispossession of land and Country that First Peoples go through. It's negative impact on health, justice, self determination.

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

I went to high school in NSW, where the curriculum was extremely limited and there was open hostility from teachers about the content (it was clear they didn't value it much), or focused on the 'improvements' of European colonisation. I have had some further education as a post grad student in VIC, and staff member of a university. However, these latter experiences were pretty shallow.

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

Indigenous self determination and land back rights. Indigenous led initiatives, in education, environment, policy, etc. We need systems that are more than just consultation, we need genuine Indigenous forms of authority.

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

Listen. Elevate First People's voices. Take some of the burden of work. Keep up-to-date about what is needed for support and when/how.

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

Community events, campaigns, non-Indigenous people having more contact with Indigenous people/groups.

**END OF SUBMISSION**