

**Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission****From: David****Dated: 3 November 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

I know that colonisation has had a devastating impact via the massacres, disease and policies of forced assimilation through the stolen generation. Years of marginalisation, not listening to First Peoples, and denying them self determination has contributed to inequitable outcomes compared with non-Indigenous people.

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

Not comprehensive at all. We visited captain cooks college, and were taught that the meeting was cordial, and it was all laughs. Growing up there would be misguided attempts to teach us about aboriginal culture through my white Art teachers teaching us how to do dot paintings. There is such a strong cultural blindness present in our education systems and a desire to ignore our shameful history of colonisation. Only in university was I able to engage with some topics about First Peoples, which were still not comprehensive enough.

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

Recognition of right to self determination. Encouraging more listening, and learning from First Peoples. Finding different ways to engage with First Peoples cultures other than reading a book or going to a museum. Refer to the Yalinguth app for learning about First Peoples Cultures.

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

Acknowledge our colonial history. Take active steps to allowing Indigenous people to talk in a safe environment. And for them to air out their concerns.

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

Stronger culturally safe practice programs. Instead of shifting what people do, shift their values and educate them. Create allies within the community, and foster environments where we can openly talk about our own positions and history's in the context of colonisation and Australia.

**END OF SUBMISSION**