

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Kate****Dated: 31 October 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

Only recently have I learnt about the force used when colonisation first occurred and the subsequent injustices that have occurred ever since. I'm 40 years old and only in the past couple of years have I learnt about the attempted genocide that has occurred since settlement.

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

Absolutely not! Anything I learnt about First Nations history was about Aboriginal people in Northern Australia and touched on Aborigines being here first, being less fortunate and that they believed in the rainbow serpent. I did not learn a single thing about my local First Nations history. This seems particularly crazy to me given I grew up about 30 minutes from Coranderrk. It never occurred to me growing up that First Nations people lived in my community. I learnt more than a bush ranger Ned Kelly than I did about the history of First Peoples.

What changes would you like to see in Victoria to promote better understanding and respect for First Truth telling.

The real history. Children learning from early childhood about the history of our country. In addition, a greater understanding of First Nations ways of knowing and being. Particularly connectedness to each other, all living things and caring for Country.

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

Speaking up. Sharing history. As a non-First Nations Victorian I have received messages that telling the stories of our shared histories is not for me. I'm grateful that more recently I am hearing more messages that the injustice experienced by First Peoples is everyone's business. I have come to terms with the fact that I may not be able to change peoples beliefs and attitudes but I can 100% share truths that allow people to finally have the whole story to be able to make up their own minds.

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

Through becoming embedded in education curriculum from early years onwards.

END OF SUBMISSION