

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Rev Deacon Katherine Davies****Dated: 16 November 2024****Submission:**

My Mother was born in 1905. She told me that her belief was that Aboriginals were dying out. I was born in 1936 we learned at about Cook and Batman but nothing about any Aboriginal person. We learned in history that Batman made a treaty with Aboriginal people in Melbourne. It was assumed by me that everything was quite legal. We knew Aboriginal people existed because they were pictured for us at Sunday School at Kew Presbyterian when funds for this and that in those places like Northern Territory were requested of us. But we did not know then what we know now that Aboriginal people liked myrnong daisies and they disappeared because animals cows or sheep too and dug them up and ate them or the fact that places were important as their country to people etc. I did not know that Australia made a law in many places that children who could pass as white had to be taken from their parents by police and brought up in children's homes. We did not know that it was very often that parents were not told where their children were sent and children did not know where they came from. We did not know that wages were mostly set a lot lower for working Aboriginals, and that in many cases with working people the Government was in charge of their bank account and even took the money there to be used for Government purposes. We did not know that they had no access to social services. We were not told that there were settlements all over the place eg the one that was in Healsville. I am talking about things I have learned late in life say from aged 60 til now even though as a young person I got an Arts Degree and a Diploma of Social Studies. So I know that many of my contemporaries are ignorant of such things. I have heard about their lack of education such as mine from a person aged 60. I am 87.

END OF SUBMISSION