Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission

From: Anonymous 1122

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Submission:

What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?

It's so broad. I know we live on stolen land, I know First Peoples were treated and classified as fauna until relatively recently. Specifically Victoria my understanding is vague. An unequal treaty I believe was proposed by Batman. I know no more details. Q3. What has been your experience learning about First Nations history and culture in Victoria's education system? Do you feel it was comprehensive? I had my education in WA, NSW and SA. WA was the best one for this. It was where I learnt more cultural points of the local country.

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

It has to be from childhood. Incorporating language, truth-telling of history and understanding us as white people's role in the exploitation and oppression of First Peoples. And it can't be self-pity or guilt. It doesn't work that way. It's "I have this particular privilege, I didn't have to go through x and y and the cops are less likely to kill me" (cops are bastards). I think it is our role as white people to listen, to reflect and then to be led by First Peoples on effective pathways to change this unequal paradigm.

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

Being present at truth-telling and comprehend land-back. We are going to be living together, we must be willing to appreciate our infliction of suffering. I want to learn. But it is not the onus on First Peoples to teach.

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

In no order: , names, compulsory cultural events, small scale truth-telling in local communities via local councils, treaty, school-age language classes for Kulin Nation languages. School age truth-telling. Learning to process discomfort in white people. And live with it. But not let it consume you.

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