

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Anonymous 1309****Dated: 22 November 2024****Submission:**

I grew up in Bairnsdale in the 80's/90's. I witnessed differential treatment, which I now know as racism on many occasions. One I remember was when leaving a nightclub. I remember myself and my boyfriend (both white) at the time arguing out the front. We were next to another couple who were Aboriginal. Police turned up and took those two First Nations people to the police station, while did not address us. Ironically it was an unhealthy, controlling relationship I was in but this was not noticed or addressed by police (because we were white)? I have never forgotten this. It was one of the first times I became of my privilege as a white person and started to question the stereotypes around Aboriginal people I was exposed to in the town at the time (e.g. no wonder they were over represented in the justice system). There were many other regular Occurances of racism I witnessed, and I'm ashamed to say May have even joined in on. this led to a lifetime commitment to advancing human rights, especially for First peoples in this country., in my work life and in bringing up my children to have this awareness and question what they are told/hear. Thank you for this opportunity.

END OF SUBMISSION