

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

I struggle navigating the world as a proud Aboriginal woman. Education is particularly difficult to complete when you're surrounded by people who think your identity is invalid. Not black enough or too black to understand. My peers underestimated my intelligence, saying that the grades, awards and competitions I won were because I was given handouts for being black. My doctor affirmed this years later, stating I would have only gotten a for being black. My doctor affirmed this years later, stating I would have only gotten a scholarship because I was Aboriginal. I didn't leave the house for a week after that. I was discriminated against in school and denied a sporting leadership position in the 6th grade. It broke my heart. Being an athlete, when I joined a diversity of sporting clubs and was immediately good at the sport, I faced severe racism from my peers which ultimately led me to quit sporting clubs altogether. I've been told I can't come over to friends house because I'm Aboriginal. I've had to remove friends who justified their parents undeniable racism.

I've had to witness this racism in person. I've been followed and profiled in stores. When I went to schoolies, I was accosted and followed by police. Landlords profit off of stolen land. A percentage should go to the traditional owners and rent prices capped. The wealth in this country needs to be redistributed amongst First Nations people. When working for a large scale university, I witnessed the restriction of the Indigenous budget, meaning First Nations staff incentives were denied with basic shut up email responses. It broke my heart. In particular, I've struggled to accept the reality we are in. I am consistently angry about the state of the world.

Everywhere I look are the abusive signs of colonialism. Capitalism, materialism, white supremacy hidden behind veil that only those who understand can see. The Victorian police walk around intimidating the public, writing notes on their paddywagons about being underpaid and overworked. The system doesn't work for the police or the public, it only serves the elite. I frustrate at the ignorance of the general public. Standing behind an idea without formation of I frustrate at the ignorance of the general public. Standing behind an idea without formation of an individualised critical thinking and curious exploration. I struggle to form relationships because my internal belief system is warped and I'm afraid of experiencing that pain again. After all of this, I've been diagnosed with CPTSD. I have had to pause my study and limit my work. I'm now in expensive psychology and struggling to pay for the cost of living.

END OF SUBMISSION