

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From:** Anonymous 1444**Dated:** November 2024**Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

Not a lot of detail. It happened a bit later than in NSW. Settlement grew exponentially during the Gold Rush. That colonisers attempted to wipe out first peoples, that many massacres took places. That oppression continued in many forms and continues today.

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

Not comprehensive, no. Very basic. I went to primary and second school through the 1990s and 2000s. I learned through the lens of the colonisers, the first fleet, some of the explorers, etc. I don't remember ever being brought anything through the lens of the first people. All felt pretty token.

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

That the stories of first peoples be front and centre at locations and events. Breaking down some of the stories we tell about our culture and history to bring more of the first nations lens. More and more visibility and voices being heard. Conversations and listening to each other.

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

By listening and by looking at our own histories, our own family histories, what happened in the places we live in and in the places where our families and ancestors have lived. By sharing those stories and asking good questions of each other.

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

More prominently present in locations that people visit and travel to. Bring it into schools in real ways.

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