

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

Only a little. I managed a work project where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wrote sections on this history for an online training program for doctors working with Indigenous people. But it was intended for a national audience and the Victoria-specific material was brief, by necessity.

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

There was nothing. I started school in about 1952, and there was nothing in the curriculum all the way through to my final year that tackled this topic. My university and post graduate studies were similarly completely lacking in this material. Disgraceful.

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

Compulsory subjects at appropriate year levels for all schools, primary and secondary. This could also lead to 'civics' education, which is similarly neglected, and would provide an opportunity to cover structures and processes for including an Indigenous Voice. Also, all higher education courses, especially if they have a professional focus, should include sections on the Indigenous perspectives, contributions and needs.

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

Through contributing to all materials used in education processes. Drawing in the arts at appropriate times and age appropriate ways, such as dance, theatre, art, music. Look at what other countries do, eg NZ, Canada. Any treaty development should be owned by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and communicated widely.

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

As above

END