

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From:** Ross**Dated:** November 2024**Submission:**

Hi there. I work at a high school in Naarm that caters to a range of kids who haven't experienced much success in the mainstream. The school is staffed by lovely caring people. I think Australian history taught only by European folks falls short of what it needs to be. I've seen some pretty honest teaching about the damage done by colonialism to first peoples. And yet, it feels a little clumsy and somehow offensive. I can't speak with authority about what goes on in the mind of the one indigenous kid in a very white classroom during such lessons. But, despite all the honesty, and rigour of the teaching, i can't help but wincing. And in the lessons where no indigenous kids are present it doesn't feel much less cringy. Also, i'd love to see more pre colonial history: politics, culture and technical innovation.

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