



First Peoples'
Assembly of
Victoria

**First Speech by Kaylene Williamson
Inaugural Meeting of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria**

10 December 2019

Wunman Njinde. I am Kaylene. I am a descendant of the GunnaiKurnai people of East Gippsland. I moved away a long time ago to get an amazing education and a career, and my family pushed me to do that. So I thank them—my mother, my father, my brother and sister who put up with me, my beautiful husband and my two daughters, Peyton and Riley. You are why I am here today, doing what I do for your future, so thank you. To all of you, thank you for being here with me and having me, and to everyone online for taking the time out to support us.

As I said, I have been blessed to have an education, and policies and procedures and legislation, all that stuff—I love. Isn't that sick? But somebody has got to. For years I have worked for organisations and used all of my skills for them. I have moved back on country today, on GunnaiKurnai land. It is time that I used those skills to help my people and not just any old organisation that I work for. So I am proud to be here and use the skills for my people. My GunnaiKurnai families, I will listen to you, help you understand these crazy words that we speak here and bring that back and bring your words back and put them in government words. Thank you. Yarrabee.

