



**First Peoples'
Assembly of
Victoria**

**First Speech by Peter Hood
Inaugural Meeting of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria**

10 December 2019

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners here and pay my respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge and thank the treaty working group for bringing us this far—Jill and Aunty Eleanor—laying the foundation. I look forward to working with the Assembly. I feel very honoured to be standing here today. I would also like to thank—personal thanks—to my mother, Margaret Atkinson, a Yorta Yorta Bangerang woman, and my father, Terry Hood, may he rest in peace. I am sure he would be very proud of me but everybody here.

I am here today to work towards better health, education, housing and justice outcomes for Aboriginal people. I think it has been a long time coming in this country, let alone this state. I said yesterday, at our first gathering, that I will commit and promise to be respectful and constructive and to listen and learn to every Assembly member that I will get to work with for the next few years.

And like every other Aboriginal person in this room, my name is Peter Hood, I am a Kurnai man, and I come from culture. Thank you.

