



Truth-telling and the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission: Factsheet

What is Truth-telling?

Truth-telling is a process of openly sharing historical truths after periods of conflict. They reveal and acknowledge human rights violations by promoting the voices of communities who have been victims of these violations.

How did we get here?

First Peoples in this country have been calling for a Truth-telling process for generations, and this process builds on this legacy of Aboriginal activism. A Truth-telling process in Victoria will allow First Peoples voices to be heard, and for the State to acknowledge violations against communities in Victoria.

On 18 June 2020, the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria agreed that Truth-telling must be a fundamental part of the Treaty process. The Assembly then called on the State to work together on the creation of a process of Truth-telling and, responding to the Assembly's leadership, the State agreed to support the process.

On 9 March 2021, the Assembly and the State formally announced the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission. Yoo-rrook means 'truth' in Wemba Wemba/Wamba Wamba language, which is spoken in the north-west region of Victoria.

The Yoo-rrook Justice Commission

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria has worked with the State to develop proposed functions for the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission. These functions will be finalised when the Yoo-rrook Justice Commissioners are appointed.

The proposed functions are to inquire into and report on historical systemic injustices perpetrated against First Peoples since colonisation (such as massacres, wars and genocide), as well as ongoing systemic injustices (such as policing and child protection). It will also ensure the Commission's ability to make broad recommendations for changes to laws, policy and education and the types of matters to be included in future Treaties.

The Yoo-rrook Justice Commission is expected start in mid-2021.

You can find out more about the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission by visiting www.firstpeoplesvic.org/truth

For information about the expression of interest process for Yoo-rrook Justice Commissioners visit pipelinentalent.com.au/yoo-rrook.

What do you want from a Truth-telling process for family, clan, and community?

If you want to book a discussion for your community or give feedback, please email truthtelling@firstpeoplesvic.org or fill in the survey via www.firstpeoplesvic.org/truth-telling/.