

**Alcohol and other drugs peaks and
truth-telling:**

**VAADA's submission to the Yoorrook
Justice Commission**

Dr James Petty

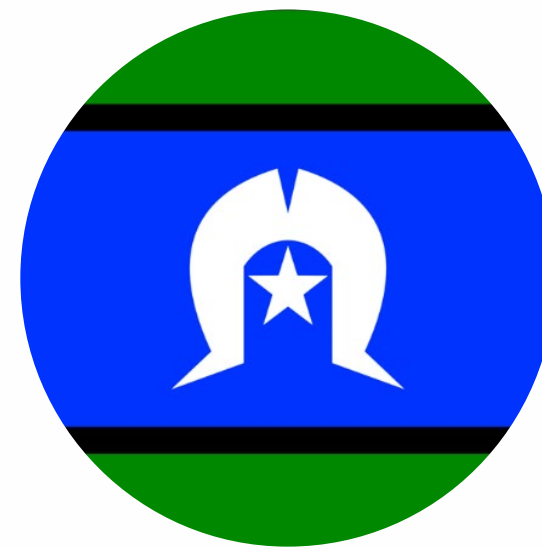
Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as the traditional owners of the lands on which we're meeting and pay our respects to their elders past and present. We acknowledge their ongoing connection to land, sky, water and culture.

Sovereignty of this land was never ceded. It always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

We also acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners of the lands that VAADA works from.

I also acknowledge the work of Mark Thomson, a proud Woi Wurrung and Yorta Yorta man with Scottish and Irish heritage.



The Yoorrook Justice Commission

The Yoorrook Justice Commission is the first formal truth-telling process into historical and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples in Victoria.

Yoorrook was set up by agreement between the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the Victorian Government but operates independently as a Royal Commission.

July 2020: Yoorrook Established



May 2021: Commissioners Appointed



June 2022: Interim Report



November 2023: Issues Paper on Health



June 2025: Final Report Due

The Submission Process

Discussion with VACCHO

Agreement that VAADA should make a submission to Yoorrook



Discussion on Scope

Key Consideration: Timeframe



Engaging First Peoples Consultant Mark Thomson



Publication and Submission

Considerations re: Data Sovereignty

Structure



Reflections

Literature Review

Complex history of facilitation and denial of alcohol.

Alcohol as a site and means of connection.



Sector Consultations

Significant progress made. Widespread commitment in sector to reconciliation and justice.

More work to do.



Interviews

Powerful stories.

Submission highly limited.

More truth-telling about AOD needed.

[Access the Submission](#)



(Or just google 'Yoorrook Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association').