

Timeline of anti-racism reforms in Victoria

Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2029

1980

1983: Victoria's first **Ethnic Affairs Commission** is established under the *Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1982 (Vic)*. This would later become the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

1984: Race, religion and ethnic origin is added to the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (Vic)*.

1995: *Equal Opportunity Act 1995 (Vic)* makes unfair treatment on the basis of race and religion unlawful.

2000

2000: The **Victorian Aboriginal justice agreement (AJA)** is signed. The Victorian Government and First Peoples communities pledge to work together to address the over-representation of First Peoples across the justice system, as recommended by the 1991 Commonwealth Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody.

2002: The **Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 (Vic)** comes into effect, to protect people from racial or religious vilification.

2004: The **Multicultural Victoria Act 2004 (Vic)** comes into effect, enshrining the principles of multiculturalism, including valuing cultural, religious and linguistic diversity into Victorian law.

2006: The **Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)** enshrines civil, political and cultural rights into Victorian law, protecting the right to practise culture, religion and language.

2006: The **Victorian indigenous affairs framework** is first developed to provide a whole-of-government, intergenerational strategy for closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians.

2008: The Victorian **Multifaith Advisory Group** is established to initiate an ongoing dialogue between government and faith leaders in the state.

2009: **All of us: Victoria's multicultural policy** is launched, focused on advancing equality and human rights and supporting cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.

2010

2010: The **Victorian indigenous affairs framework 2010-2013** is released to address the gaps between First Peoples and non-Aboriginal Victorians.

2010: The **Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)** enshrines redress mechanisms for people who have been discriminated against into Victorian law.

2011: The **Multicultural Victoria Act 2011 (Vic)** comes into effect, setting out principles that encourage respect for Victoria's cultural, religious, and linguistic diversity, and constituting the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

2012: The revised **Victorian Aboriginal affairs framework 2013-2018** is released to improve outcomes through self-determination.

2012: Victorian Multicultural Commission's **Regional Advisory Councils** are established.

2014: **Victoria's advantage: unity, diversity, opportunity policy** is launched as a framework to foster a fair, inclusive and harmonious multicultural Victoria.

2015: The Victorian Government commits to **self-determination** as the policy framework to guide First Peoples affairs in Victoria.

2016: First Peoples in Victoria call for Treaty at a self-determination forum. The Victorian Government commits to progressing Treaty and the **Aboriginal Treaty Working Group** is established.

2017: Victoria's multicultural policy statement, *Victorian. And proud of it*, is released, setting out a vision to enable every Victorian to participate fully, remain connected to culture and have equal rights, protections and opportunities.

2018: The ***Victorian Aboriginal affairs framework 2018–2023*** is published as a blueprint for working with First Peoples, organisations and the wider community to drive action and improve outcomes.

2018: Victoria passes Australia's first ever Treaty law, ***Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018 (Vic)***, providing the roadmap towards Treaty negotiations.

2018: The 10-year ***Victorian African communities action plan*** is launched to improve wellbeing outcomes.

2019: The **First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria** is established as an independent and democratically elected body to represent First Peoples in Victoria's Treaty process.

2020: Formal negotiations between the Victorian Government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria **commence on the Treaty elements** under the *Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018 (Vic)*.

2021: The **Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Vilification Protections** releases a final report with 36 recommendations to address vilification and hate conduct in Victoria. Over the following two years, the Victorian Government responds by introducing new laws banning the Nazi Hakenkreuz symbol (the most widely known Nazi symbol) in 2022, and additional Nazi symbols and gestures in public, including the Nazi salute in 2023.

2021: The Victorian Government and First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria establish the **first Treaty element – a dispute resolution process**.

2021: The **Yoorrook Justice Commission** is established and five Commissioners are appointed. It is Australia's first truth-telling process into both historical and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples since colonisation.

2021: Victoria's Anti-Racism Taskforce is formed to provide strategic advice to the Victorian Government on preventing and combatting racism in Victoria, and to support the development of the Anti-Racism Strategy.

2022: Following a historic agreement between the Victorian Government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, the ***Treaty Authority and Other Treaty Elements Act 2022 (Vic)*** passes the Victorian Parliament. This Act establishes the Treaty Negotiation Framework, the Self-Determination Fund and the Treaty Authority.

2022: The Yoorrook Justice Commission holds 29 yarning circles and public hearings to listen to Elders' truths and priorities. These hearings inform its interim report, ***Yoorrook with Purpose***.

2023: Following a year-long inquiry, the Yoorrook Justice Commission delivers its report ***Yoorrook for Justice: Report into Victoria's Child Protection and Criminal Justice Systems***. The report contains 46 recommendations.

2023: The Yoorrook Justice Commission commences its **social justice** line of inquiry (including health, housing and education) and focus on injustices against First Peoples in relation to **land, sky and waters**. The Commission will deliver the final report in 2025.

2023: Treaty Authority members are announced.

2024: The Treaty Authority opens the Treaty negotiations database. **Treaty negotiations commence** between First Peoples and the Victorian Government, ensuring First Peoples have a say on the policies that impact their lives.

2024: Victoria's anti-racism strategy is released