

What priority are First Nations justice issues for you?

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to working with First Nations communities to reduce rates of incarceration and improve outcomes for First Nations youth, including through our Aboriginal Justice Agreement and Wirkara Kulpa, the first Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy. Currently, we are engaged in the national conversation about whether the age of criminal responsibility should be changed.

The Victorian Government is continuing to work with our community partners to divert as many children as possible, particularly those aged 10-13 years old, from our criminal justice system. We are also working on a range of programs to reduce the over-representation of First Nations people in custody.

The Government believes that partnering with Aboriginal people gives us the best chance of progress to reduce this overrepresentation. Our commitment to the Aboriginal Justice Agreement reflects that view.

If Labor is re-elected, we will continue work on these issue as well as work with key justice stakeholders.

How will you support First Nations people in Footscray / Western Victoria Region?

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to support First Nations people in Footscray and the Western Metropolitan Region by delivering Treaty, Truth and Justice for First Peoples.

The Andrews Labor Government has long been guided by the principle of self-determination in its work with First Peoples.

We know that long term, sustainable change is only possible when First Peoples are in the driver's seat, making decisions about the matters that impact their lives.

That is why Victoria was the first and only jurisdiction to action both the 'treaty' and 'truth' elements of the Uluru Statement of the Heart.

Treaty is the all-important mechanism through which we will transfer decision-making power and resources to Victoria's First Peoples. The Andrews Government will continue to progress the Treaty process with Victoria's First Peoples, with substantive Treaty negotiations expected to commence early next year.

It's not just words – but action – delivered by a Labor Government in partnership with Victoria's Aboriginal Community.

Alongside Treaty, the Andrews Government established the Yoorrook Justice Commission as the nation's first truth-telling process into systemic injustices experienced by First Nations people since colonisation. The Commission is investigating both historical and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples, across all areas of social, political and economic life. We look forward to receiving the Commission's reports and recommendations for reform.

We are extremely proud of the progress we've made towards Treaty, Truth, Justice and self-determination for First Nations Victorians.

What do you believe are the priorities for First Nations people that need to be addressed and how will you do that?

Listening to First Nations people and enabling self-determination is critically important.

I believe that First Nations people want to be respected, listened to, and to be a party to the decisions that impact their lives.

Treaty is an opportunity to reframe how all Victorians view ourselves, our culture, and our State.

Treaty will acknowledge that prior to the formation of the State of Victoria, First Peoples communities were here – practicing their own law, lore, and cultural authority.

The Andrews Labor Government will work with First Peoples to deliver Treaty – including with the First People's Assembly.

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering the vital investments needed to achieve better outcomes for First Nations Victorians across government.

The 2022/23 State Budget delivered funding to support Aboriginal Victorians with over \$400 million across a range of programs from health, education and family services. This Government has announced almost \$1.6 billion in programs and services to support and assist Victoria's Aboriginal community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Labor's priorities to JAM.

Kind regards

Ingrid Stitt MP

State Member for Western Metropolitan Region

t: 03 9363 1644 | e: ingrid.stitt@parliament.vic.gov.au | Tenancy 2, 80 Carmody Drive (PO Box 5084),
Cairnlea 3023

This office is located on the land of the Kulin Nations