



We, the VATE Council, are proud to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria where we do our work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and remember that sovereignty was never ceded.

As an organisation firmly committed to advancing social justice and equality, we want to play our part in righting the wrongs of the past and be part of creating a better future together. With profound respect for the sovereignty, culture, and rights of First Peoples, we're pleased to announce that we will walk with the [First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria](#) on the journey to Treaty.

We recognise that when it comes to First Peoples' communities, cultures and lands, the experts are of course First Peoples. The past can't be changed, but we can choose to take steps today that will help heal the ongoing pain caused by ongoing injustices. We believe a better tomorrow is possible and VATE Council pledges our unwavering support to the First Peoples' [Treaty process](#) in Victoria.

Supporting Treaty and Truth-telling

Truth-telling is a key pillar on the path to reconciliation. As part of our commitment to truth-telling and Treaty, VATE Council will commission an independent review of our organisation and our role in colonisation by identifying direct and indirect examples through our journal, *Idiom*. We will document and share the history of our organisation and the history of subject English in Victoria as it has been presented in *Idiom*. The information may well be difficult for us to read, however, 'facing up to past wrongs and the legacies they leave is essential to our collective healing process'.

To help build support for the shared journey to Treaty, we will:

Activate

- Allocate financial resources to donate and support the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.
- Include a final line of solidarity as part of our organisation's Acknowledgement of Country.

Collaborate

- Provide in-kind resources such as meeting spaces, equipment, and expertise to support First Peoples' organisations or Traditional Owners involved in the Treaty process.

Educate

- Provide training and capacity-building opportunities for staff members to increase their understanding of First Peoples' issues, Treaty negotiations, and cultural competency.
- Commit to educating our members on the importance of Treaty.
- Support initiatives that promote cross-cultural understanding and respect, fostering a culture of inclusivity and appreciation.

Advocate

- Publicly endorse and advocate for the negotiation and implementation of Treaty with the state government.
- Raise awareness about the importance of Treaty and the rights of First Peoples through internal/external communication channels.
- Maximise the visibility of our support for Treaty.
- Commit to backing the Assembly at key moments.

By making this pledge, VATE Council affirms our commitment to the self-determination of [First Peoples in Victoria](#) as they assert their rights, tell their truths, and chart a path towards, and healing through, Treaty-making. Together, we will create a future where First Peoples' voices are heard, rights are respected, and justice is realised for generations to come.

We encourage you to join us on this journey.