

Professor Martin Westwell speech – Thursday 27 October 2022

SA's History Advocate announcement and launch of the HTSA education website

Ngadlu tampinthe yalaka ngadlu Kurna yartangka inparrinthe. Ngadludlu tampinthe, parnaku tuwila yartangka.

I would like to acknowledge that we meet today on the traditional lands of the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their Country.

- Good afternoon and thank you to the History Trust for the opportunity to say a few words today.
- As many of you know, our Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Hon Blair Boyer MP has Ministerial responsibility for the History Trust of South Australia.
- I am delighted to be here on his behalf, to both officially launch the History Trust's new education website and also to announce the appointment of the newly created role of South Australia's History Advocate.
- Firstly, to the History Trust's new History Advocate. Up until about 20 years ago, the organisation included the role of State Historian. I understand that this position was then abolished much to the disappointment of South Australia's history community.
- Now, looking to the future of the History Trust, a new role has been created that includes the functions of the former State Historian but reimagined in a more twenty-first century capacity as South Australia's History Advocate.
- The History Advocate will be the Trust's authoritative person to steward the sharing and telling of the diverse stories that make us who we are today, and will bring our special history into focus for present and future generations of South Australians and our visitors.
- The History Advocate will be a go-to person for media and will complement the work of the Trust's curatorial and education teams, digital content creators and research partners.
- They will also engage with the state's history peak bodies and the many urban and regional community history network entities to increase awareness and appreciation for our distinctive history.
- I am delighted today to announce that Dr Kiera Lindsey has been appointed to the role of SA's History Advocate.
- No stranger to South Australia, for six years from 2012-2018, Kiera lectured in Australian History and Australian Studies at the University of South Australia, before moving to Sydney.
- Kiera has a strong track record of successful public engagement, having worked in television, radio, public talks, podcasts, museums and heritage interpretation.
- Chair of Trustees, Elizabeth Ho will share more about Kiera's background shortly.
- I know that the History Trust's Trustees and leadership are keen to see the profile of South Australian history strengthened, and I congratulate them for heeding years of history sector advocacy.
- I congratulate Kiera on her new role and the important work ahead. I understand that we will also hear from her shortly.
- In addition to celebrating this new appointment - I am also pleased to launch the History Trust's new online education offering.

- Since long before The History Trust of South Australia and its museums moved across to the Department for Education, they had a proud track record of supporting South Australian teachers and educating South Australian students.
- Given my background and passion for education, you won't be surprised to hear that I am a bit of a curriculum nerd.
- The way that History is expressed in the Australian Curriculum has a great many advantages.
- Importantly, the curriculum focuses on seven history concepts to develop their ability to think historically, those being: evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, significance, perspectives, empathy and contestability.
- If we can develop students ability to see and think in these ways about the people and stories of the world and their stories, not only will we be developing better historians, we will be developing better human beings.
- The curriculum grows with a student, starting with the stories of their family, and building out over time to include the history of their local community, the state the nation and then the wider international context; all the time helping the student to connect their story to the bigger picture and to understand their place in the world.
- Improved access, equity and capacity-building for all South Australian teachers and students is a key driver of the History Trust's work which we now see realised through this new Education website and associated digital programs and learning resources we are here to launch today.
- I'm delighted to see the History Trust reimagine its already quality museum offerings, its collections and its digital learning resources to ensure more teachers and students are supported and equipped with the building blocks of knowledge, skills and twenty-first century capabilities to contribute constructively in an increasingly complex and constantly changing world.
- Co-designed with teachers - and for teachers - this new website and resources embed technology to deliver engaging twenty-first century learning experiences for not only metropolitan schools but regional and remote schools. No longer is distance (and the expense and logistics of school buses and getting kids out of the classroom) a barrier to accessing our museums, our culture, our collections - and our shared history.
- Building on the History Trust's long-standing commitment to South Australian history through the appointment of a State History Advocate - and the provision of museum-based excursions, teacher professional development programs, and digital and physical outreach programs - I'm delighted today to both welcome Dr Kiera Lindsey - and to launch the History Trust's new Education website and associated digital learning programs.
- Thank you.