

[South Australia's State Pride to be Strengthened by History]

Today is a momentous occasion for South Australian History. '*Listen - Engage - Learn*' - a new history education website for students and teachers will be launched. And Dr Kiera Lindsey will be announced as the new **South Australia's History Advocate**, by Department for Education Chief Executive, Prof Martin Westwell at the History Trust's heritage-rich Migration Museum courtyard, Kintore Avenue.

Minister for Education, Skills & Training, the Hon Blair Boyer, has welcomed these two important initiatives, "Dr Lindsey is an award-winning historian, and her expertise will help promote our distinctive South Australian social, environmental, and economic history" he said.

"I'm thrilled to see the new history education website launched which will provide our students and teachers with a valuable resource that reflects the diverse and unique history of South Australia.

It's vital our children and their families learn more about our struggles, our triumphs, and our unique reform record, because this legacy still shapes us today" said the Minister.

History Trust CEO, Greg Mackie OAM commented on the new website, "A major review of the History Trust's approach to education in 2020-21 highlighted ways to expand statewide learning access and reach through digital pathways".

"The appointment of the new **South Australia's History Advocate**, rectifies the significant loss of the State Historian position abolished over 20 years ago as a cost-saving measure. South Australia's History Advocate will help guide the documenting, collecting and sharing of the history which shapes us today, making it more interesting for new generations of South Australians" Greg said. <https://education.history.sa.gov.au/>

"South Australia's History Advocate will be our authoritative 21st century 'go to' person for media and will work across the community to generate interest in our unique and distinctive stories and places" says Chair of Trustees, Elizabeth Ho OAM.

"Our SA History Advocate will help to guide the documenting, collecting and sharing of the history that shapes us today, and make it more interesting for new generations of South Australians," she said.

Our SA History Advocate will stimulate wider understanding and use of our stories in community building and tourism, and within the framework of the National Curriculum, enable students to find their place in our shared history. We are delighted to have attracted Dr Kiera Lindsey back to South Australia to take up this ground breaking role," says Elizabeth Ho.

Commencing in November, Dr Kiera Lindsey says: "By bringing the past alive, one archive, object, individual and story at a time, history becomes an extremely potent binding agent which connects our communities and deepens our sense of belonging. The more we reckon with and relish our past, the more we can imagine and co-create a new and better future. Having worked as a historian for well over twenty years, six of which were spent in South Australia, I know the state is full of not only fascinating stories, but all sorts of people who have a real passion for the past, be they curious kids, country communities, city slickers - or wild creative spirits. I am so glad to be back home and truly excited to begin working together to discover more about who we are and the unique ways South Australia contributes to the national story." <https://www.history.sa.gov.au/history-advocate/>

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Background

New History Trust Education website - Listen, Engage, Learn.

Access, equity and capacity building for all South Australian teachers and students are key concerns of the History Trust and all will be strengthened through this new website and associated digital programs and learning resources.

Aligned with the National Curriculum, South Australian students and teachers will be able to use quality digital-by-design education programs and resources in classrooms, libraries and museums statewide.

Co-designed with teachers, this new website delivers engaging twenty-first century learning experiences for students at all schools - remote, regional and metropolitan. Distance and travel barriers will no longer put access to the History Trust's museums, collections and South Australian history presentations beyond reach. <https://education.history.sa.gov.au/>

South Australia's History Advocate

Established in 1981 with bipartisan support under the History Trust of South Australia Act to preserve our history (not to be confused with the National Trust of SA whose focus is built heritage and environment), the History Trust has had three former State Historians: Dr John Tregenza, Dr Susan Marsden AM, and Dr Robert Nicol. The role was abolished as a budget initiative. The new History Advocate position will advance the History Trust's promise to "give the past a future, now!"

Dr Kiera Lindsey

Dr Kiera Lindsey is an award-winning historian and Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow, Griffith University and from 2012-2018 Kiera lectured in Australian History and Australian Studies at the University of South Australia. Kiera has a strong track record of public engagement, having worked in television, radio, public talks, podcasts, museums and heritage interpretation. She is currently a member of the Sydney Living Museum's Curatorial and Public Engagement Working Party and the Vice President of the History Council of New South Wales.

Her academic research is concerned with the intersections between creative practice and historical research, with a particular focus upon imagination, speculation and colonial women. She is a leading practitioner in the field of speculative biography and recently published a co-edited collection with Routledge which defines this emerging field. In addition to this Kiera has published books, book chapters and journal articles on nineteenth-century history and creative histories and her second monograph will be published with Allen & Unwin in 2023.

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