

NAIDOC Week 1-8 July 2012

State Library safeguards Stolen Generations' survivor stories

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The recorded stories of Australian Stolen Generations survivors will be preserved for future generations with the State Library of NSW confirmed as the new custodian of the website: www.stolengenerationstestimonies.com.

The State Library of NSW has partnered with the Stolen Generations Testimonies Foundation to ensure the future life of the website, which captures the personal testimonies of 50 survivors.

According to NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive Alex Byrne, "As a memory institution the State Library is honored to be hosting this remarkable site and providing a living home for these stories, which will be available to current and future generations."

"The website is a sensational addition to the State Library's unrivalled documentary collections, which comprise extensive Indigenous material," says Dr Byrne.

Melanie Hogan, CEO of the Stolen Generations' Testimonies Foundation, says "it was always our intention to create a national treasure for current and future Australians and to engage more Australians in the healing process. To have the State Library involved is a crucial step towards achieving these goals."

The website includes the story of Debra Hocking who reveals "it's hard to tell our personal stories but we are doing this to educate people. For us to heal as a country these are the stories we need to share. They're sad stories but they're important stories."

The Stolen Generations' Testimonies initiative to record and provide online access to survivors' stories was funded by the Commonwealth Government and Rio Tinto.

Complementing this initiative, the State Library has enjoyed a successful partnership with Rio Tinto on projects focused on revitalising, preserving and providing access to Indigenous history and culture.

As a result of this partnership, hundreds of items from the Library's Indigenous collections have been digitised and made publicly available online.

"With support from Rio Tinto, we are also undertaking a landmark initiative to preserve vital surviving records of Indigenous vocabularies and word lists held in the Library's collections," says Dr Byrne.

Media Release



“The three-year *Rediscovering Indigenous Languages* project aims to identify as many word lists as possible, and make them available to their relevant Indigenous communities in culturally appropriate ways.”

The State Library is also currently establishing an Indigenous Unit which will further expand its outreach and dialogue with Indigenous communities.

For more information, images and interviews please contact:

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