



Western Australian Curriculum

Humanities and Social Sciences: History

Pinjarra Apology Curriculum Project

A message of courage from Aunty Trish Hill-Wall
Senior Cultural Custodian Wadandi Bibbulmun
Language Group | Transcript

Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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AUNTY TRISH HILL-WALL: Senior Cultural Custodian Wadandi Bibbulmun Language Group

Kaya to all of our educators, our leaders in the classroom.

My name is Aunty Trish Hill-Wall. I am a Noongar woman from Wadandi country, with family connections that extend across Yamatji, Wongi, and other regional communities.

When the Governor, Chris Dawson, stood on Bindjareb Country and delivered the formal apology for the 1834 Pinjarra Massacre in October 2025, he did something profound.

He showed us that acknowledging our shared past — in all its complexity and pain — is the only true pathway to healing — Wungening.

Now, that history is in your hands. This curriculum is entering your classrooms.

And I want to speak to you directly — not just as an Elder, but as a fellow educator.

I know these materials might feel like a big ask.

You might be sitting there thinking — ‘What if I get the details wrong?’.

‘What if I don't know enough?’

‘What if I say something that upsets a child, or a parent, or a colleague?’

Those are real fears.

And that fear actually comes from a place of deep respect.

And I want to say this clearly: making mistakes when you teach difficult history is not a failure.

So please, do not be afraid to make mistakes.

Do not be afraid to teach this material.

Because that IS part of teaching.

We learn by doing.

We learn by being honest when we don't know.

By going away and finding out, by coming back and saying — ‘I looked into that, and here's what I found.’

In my decades of working in mental health and tertiary education, I have learned that teaching is never a straight, perfect line.

If you trip over a word, or stumble on a concept, that is completely okay.

You can correct it with humility by listening to our communities and moving forward.

True reconciliation doesn't require perfection; it requires presence.

And our children NEED to hear the truth so they can grow stronger, together.

So, thank you for being there for them, and walking softly alongside us on our journey together.