**Welcome to Country – Conference – Leila Rankine Award**

**Iteka Sanderson-Bromley**

Nangga, Ngai mityi Iteka Ukarlanha

Ngai mathari tha ngatyu Yura mityi Warrikanha

Ngatyu Ngawarla Adnyamathanha, Narungga & Yarliyandi

Wanggatha ngatyu ngawarla aldhaldhapandai - tha wanggatha ngatyu ngawarla ngarldupandai.

Ngai aldhaaldhandai nuda nakundha.

Ngarpurla Kaurna yartanga ikandha

Warndu Watya

Hello, My name is Iteka Ukarla.

My skin group is Mathari, the south wind & my Aboriginal name is Warrikanha, meaning 2nd born girl,

My language groups are Adnyamathanha, from Flinders Ranges, Narungga, from Yorke peninsula & Yarliyandi, the Simpson Desert.

Speaking my language makes me happy & proud and keeps me strong

I’m happy to see you all today, here on Kaurna land

Thankyou for this award. Year 12 is a challenging year but studying Aboriginal Studies was one of the highlights. Massive Thankyou to Margie Tilbrook, my teacher who did an amazing job and of course to my family for their constant support

* As an Aboriginal person I have grown up with a lot of community & social knowledge.

But Studying Aboriginal studies at school has added extra layers to this giving me more knowledge and additional information about Aboriginal history & contemporary Aboriginal Australia. It allowed me to bring my everyday knowledge into the classroom and to extend, develop and express my ideas.

* Most non-Aboriginal people do not have the opportunity to engage with Aboriginal community and for some, Aboriginal Studies may be their only way to learn & understand some of our history.
* Aboriginal Studies is a choice subject however it should be a core subject in schools so that students can see the world through our eyes and develop some understanding of Aboriginal history, and the survival of our people and culture.
* White Australia has black history – Australia’s history did not start 230 years ago, but over 60,000 years ago. It’s a history that should be acknowledged, understood, respected, valued and learnt from.
* As a society, we must appreciate and value Aboriginal culture and knowledge if we are ever going to move forward as a united nation. This why teaching Aboriginal Studies as a subject, and Aboriginal perspectives across all the curriculum is so important.
* Maybe then we will be able to begin taking steps towards the harmonious Australia that many Australians already believe this country to be

Thankyou