



Language Teacher Statement

Merindah Hansen



Why is it important to learn Aboriginal languages?

Because every country has their own language. We have so many languages spoken here - it's a multicultural world.

We have a language which was taken away. Noongar is the language of this area. Let's bring it back!

Who am I?

My name is **Merindah Hansen**. I was born in Melbourne but grew up mostly in Perth. My family connection is Yuat with my Grandparents from New Norcia.

I learnt language from Beryl Harp (RIP) and Aunty Kathy Yarren (RIP). I feel truly blessed that I was able to learn from the old people who were our fluent speakers.

I love teaching people the language and giving them the opportunity to use it and teach others. If we do this, the language will continue to grow.

What does 'Acknowledgement of Country' mean?

Everyone does an Acknowledgment but it's really important to understand why we do an Acknowledgement of Country.

This was Aboriginal land first so an acknowledgement is a sign of respect.

A Welcome to Country can only be done by the traditional custodians of the land. They are welcoming us to their Country.

In an Acknowledgment, we show respect to First Nations peoples and their land.

If we teach kids the reason why it's done they grow up understanding it and can let other people know.

What does culture mean to you?

Culture to me is about knowing who I am and where I belong.

It's about understanding the environment we live in.

It's about listening to our Elders and hearing the stories they have to tell and learning from them.

It's about my spirituality and never losing sight of who I am.