# Leila Rankine Award for Excellence in SACE Aboriginal Studies – Diana Hunt

Good morning, my name is Diana Hunt and I am an Arrente woman born and raised on Kaurna land. First of all, I acknowledge that the Kaurna people are the traditional custodians of the Adelaide and Adelaide Hills region on which many of us live, work and study on. I also acknowledge that the cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

I am honoured to be here today, receiving the Leila Rankine Award for Excellence for Stage 2 Aboriginal Studies. One of the highlights of Aboriginal Studies for me was completing my Social Action, a unit of work for Year 10 English, focused on Indigenous poetry and breaking the stereotype that Indigenous people are not intelligent or only good at sports. Another highlight was one of my Learning Journey tasks, based around Indigenous service, in which I got to utilise both my grandfather’s story of being in the Indonesian Confrontation and his father’s story of returning home after the Second World War to having to find his own way home to Alice Springs from Fort Largs, whilst seeing non-Indigenous servicemen given bus passes.

Aboriginal Studies was more than a subject to me, it was a journey to better understand myself and the country I call home. In retrospect, I infused Aboriginal Studies into many of my subjects without even realising it. I utilised Dreaming stories and Steven Oliver poems in Literary Studies, in Chemistry, I considered the properties of fats and oils being put on cloths to protect them from water before Western science found out about polarity, and in Japanese, I thought about the importance of culture, language and linguistics within a people and how diverse our world is.

I am glad I did Aboriginal Studies, for it has shaped me into the person and future educator I am today. Thank you to Humanities and Social Sciences SA for this amazing award and thank you for all being here today.

*Please note that Diana attended a suburban high school in Adelaide that did not offer SACE Aboriginal Studies so she organised to study this subject in 2020 through the Open Access College.*