**Transcript**

***Nicole Curby – Australian Generations Oral History Project***

My research is part of the Australian Generations Oral History Project which is involves historians at La Trobe University, Monash University, ABC Radio and the National Library of Australia. We’re conducting interviews with ordinary Australians from all walks of life across the country. So that means we’re spending a couple of sessions in people’s homes and they’re telling us their life story. In doing so I guess we’re thinking about history as it happened for ordinary people and so we’re looking into how life has changed over the generations in living memory and in particular we’re looking into certain themes such as fathering, migration, social mobility, sexuality. I’m looking at the way people tell their life story, so the different dreams and aspirations, the different struggles and issues that people have had in their lives and how that’s changed in history. The way people remember their stories and tell their stories also says a lot about who we are as a people and where we’re going.

We’re recording 300 interviews with people all across the country and they’ll be kept with the National Library of Australia. That will be an incredible resource for us as researchers but also for future generations. In telling their stories I think people find it a profoundly satisfying experience. And we’ll also be using the interviews that we record for a radio series with Radio National.

I think in getting the perspective of ordinary people sort of from the bottom up we get to rethink the way that history is told and what history means. It’s not just a big picture narrative. Politics and history is also about the everyday, about the little loves and losses and joys that everyday people experience and so I guess we’re writing that back into history.