Transcript of Dr Kay Carroll – historical inquiry in the syllabus

Well, I'd like to think rather than challenges in the new syllabus it gives primary teachers new opportunities in the teaching of history. They already do so much particularly well. They know that children learn from stories. They know that children learn about the past from their families and they always begin with that. So, that won't change but a new opportunity perhaps to bring in artefacts from the home. Those photographs that children learn about. Those stories that have been told. Pieces of music. Perhaps a particular brooch or a personal piece of jewellery. A piece of pottery. Whatever it might be to actually bring them in and allow them to tell a story. So, that's a new opportunity with the syllabus that primary teachers will have to actually engage in what we call 'inquiry based learning' which allows I guess the children to learn directly from the World, not just about the World in a textbook or on a SMART board but actually engage and explore and ask questions. You know whose object was this? Where did it come from? Why is it important? What does it tell us? How would it have been used in the past? What does it mean to us? How significant is it? And these are the sorts of opportunities that primary teachers will have to use inquiry learning in a relevant and practical way for the classroom for their students to bring history alive.

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