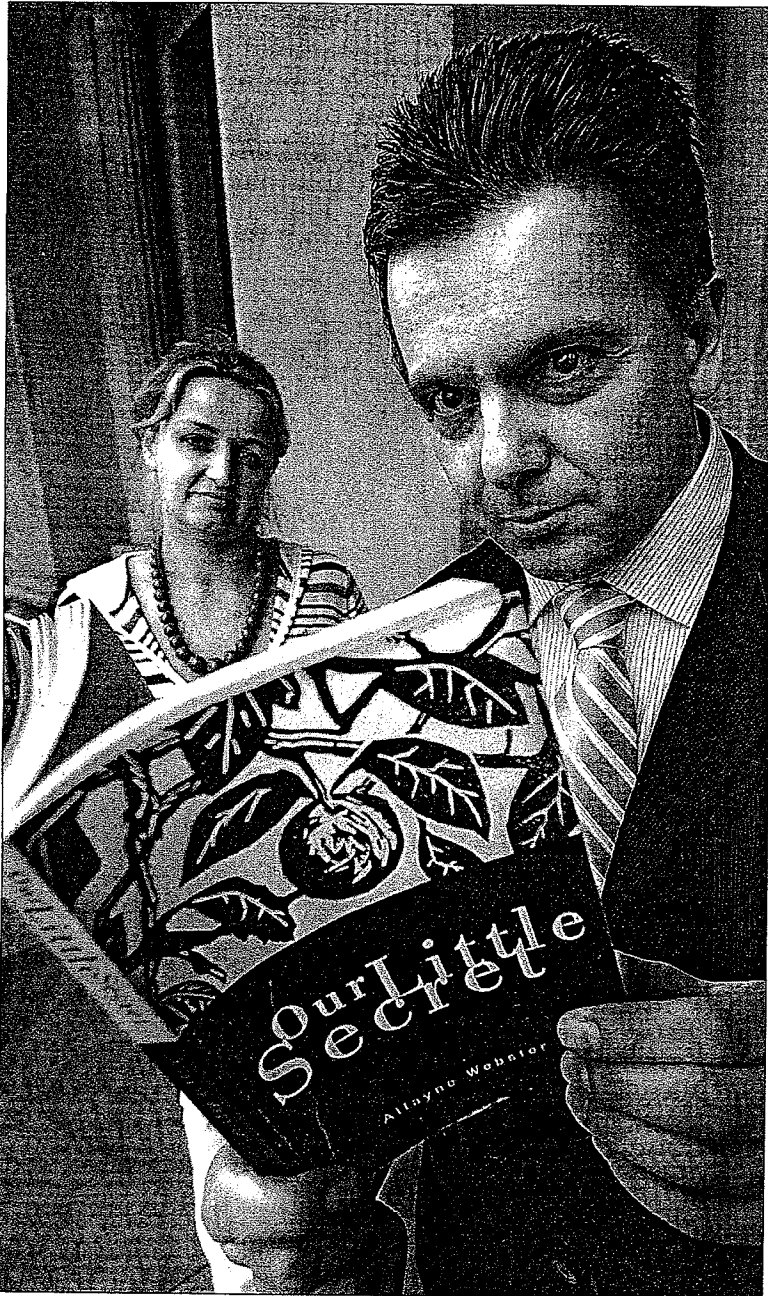


“ It (the book) just shows you how sexual predators lay their trap and it raises a healthy level of awareness about the way that predators entrap young people. INDEPENDENT MLC NICK XENOPHON

Book of ‘taboos’ wins backing for curriculum



MESSAGE: Nick Xenophon and author Allayne Webster yesterday.

Picture: MARK BRAKE

NICK HENDERSON
STATE POLITICAL REPORTER

ISSUES including suicide, rape and sexual assault, addressed in a new novel by a South Australian author, should not be hidden from teenagers, Independent MLC Nick Xenophon believes.

The fictional *Our Little Secret*, written by Allayne Webster, focuses on a girl, 14, who is seduced and then sexually abused by a man.

Webster believes the book should be read by girls of 14 or older.

She says schools should be open to using the book and should not ban issues long considered taboo.

Mr Xenophon agreed to officially launch the book tonight.

He thinks it will empower the girls who read it.

He also called on schools to consider adding the book to their curriculum, saying the issues it depicts no longer should be hidden.

“The book is not explicit and carries a very powerful message of hope,” he said yesterday.

“It just shows you how sexual predators lay their trap and it raises a healthy level of awareness about the way that predators entrap young people.

“It is done in a way that is not dark. It is that special combination of a fantastic read with a very powerful message.”

Webster said she had doubts on whether schools would encourage their students to read it.

“I understand that in the industry there are many gatekeepers between what kids can read at the end of the day,” she said.

“But I think that the time has come for these issues to no longer be swept under the carpet.

“This happens to young girls and they have the opportunity to come forward and talk about it and know that they are not alone.”

Dyan Blacklock, general manager of publisher Omnibus Books, said the novel had a powerful message.

AdelaideNOW

JOIN THE DEBATE

www.adelaidenow.com.au

“We took this book on first because we thought it was beautifully written and, second, because we thought the subject matter was compelling,” she said.

“We are an office of women and that is why we may have found the book compelling.”

Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith said the book would be considered by “experts”.

“Politicians should not decide which books are added to the curriculum, but we’re happy to refer it to education experts for consideration,” she said.

ONE GIRL'S SECRET STORY

- Main character: Edwina Saltmarsh
- Age: 14
- Lives: Wattleton (regional community)
- Likes: Painting and socialising with her many friends.
- Dislikes: Going to church with her mother.
- The story is narrated by Edwina, a fictional character, who is seduced by an older man before she is sexually assaulted by him. While dealing with very serious issues, the story is often humorous and sends a positive message to young girls.

CONTAGIOUS VIRUS Hospital visits warning

PEOPLE suffering from gastroenteritis should not visit hospitals and nursing homes, the Health Department warns.

Outbreaks of highly-contagious norovirus have ripped through hospitals interstate, causing the deaths of several elderly people and forcing one hospital to ban visitors.

Authorities hope to avoid fatalities in SA by appealing to the public to act responsibly.

Communicable Disease Control Branch director Dr Ann Koehler said norovirus could be transmitted by contaminated hands, objects and food.

“It’s highly, highly infectious,” she said. “You can inhale this one if there’s virus particles in the air.”

CARTRIDGE WORLD Founders sell stake for \$70m

THE founders of Cartridge World, which opened in Adelaide in 1997 and now operates in 45 countries, have pocketed up to \$70 million while still retaining a stake in the company.

Paul Wheeler and Bryan Stokes will keep 10 per cent each of the printer cartridge refilling company, which now has 1513 franchises across the world.

The remainder has been handed over to five executives and Sydney private equity firm Wolseley for what was believed to be up to \$70 million, but the deal price has not been disclosed.

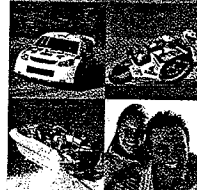
Mr Stokes, 59, was expected to retire while Mr Wheeler, 50, said he was going to take a break.

PAGE 77: Private equity takes over

Adelaide's newest Suzuki Dealer, Fullarton Suzuki is doing something big this weekend.

Keep your eye on this Saturday's Cars Guide for more information.

Fullarton Suzuki
272 Glen Osmond Rd, Fullarton Ph: 8338 4344



SUZUKI
Way of Life!