

NINTIRINGTJAKU PROFILE

ANNETTE WILYUKA TTIJKALA COMMUNITY



I was born at Maryvale Station but it's now called Titjikala. I grew up there and went to school there. I left school when I was 17. My first job was cleaning the school and also in the laundry. I then helped with teaching kindergarten kids. I also worked cleaning the station house with my aunty. I did this work for a long time.

My father's father was blind, and I started looking after my grandfather. I looked after my grandfather for a long time.

I went to Amata and Cave Hill to visit my families. I worked at Cave Hill as a teacher's assistant. When I returned to Titjikala I worked for three years in the school. I adopted one child and later on adopted two more children.

The first child I adopted had chronic chest infection. I used to take her for physio and stayed with her at the hospital and at Mt Gillen. The nurses noticed that I was talking

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English and they asked me to be interpreter when they were talking to the mums. They asked me to be liaison worker at the hospital but I refused – I was too shy then. I took my daughter to Adelaide for a lung operation, they removed her lung on the left side. I kept on doing the physio, she's grown up and has a son now.

The last child that I adopted was my niece. When she was a baby I took her to Adelaide because she had the Ross River virus. I stayed with her there until she got better.

I also would travel from Titjikala school to Yipirinya school to do training. All the teachers travelled to the University of South Australia for more training. Our teachers group also went to Oenpelli and Darwin to see how they do their teaching.

I stopped working as a Teacher's Assistant and started working in Aged Care, looking after old people. I looked after my father for a long time there. Before Aged Care I was looking after my uncle. He was on dialysis. First at Yipirinye Hostel, then he got a house and I kept looking after him. I still work in Aged Care today. I also help out in the Titjikala Art Centre, looking after old people who do carving and painting there. I do paintings at home and at the Art Centre.

I also do work for Waltja. I help with training on the community and I am a Waltja Management Committee member.

Luritja is my first language, and I understand and speak Pitjantjara, Arrernte, Pintupi and English.

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