

## **Lowitja O'Donoghue**

One of the most appreciated women in society today, is Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue. Lowitja was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 1932 in Indulka, South Australia and she is a proud Yankunjatjara woman. She is famous for her public service towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders as well launching the Lowitja Institute.

As mentioned before, Lowitja was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 1932 and was the fifth of six children. Her mother, Lily, was Indigenous and her father Tom was Irish although Tom left Lily, and Lowitja never met her father. When she was two years old, she became a member of the stolen generation. Lowitja and two of her sisters were taken from her mother and she was taken to a missionary where she was taught white culture. She then went to Quorn primary school and later continued her educational journey at Unley Girls Technical High School. During high school, at 16, she became a nanny to earn some money. While at the schools the children and staff didn't call her Lowitja but they called her Louis.

Soon after completing university at Unley high school she filled in her application to be a nurse at Royal Adelaide hospital but didn't get the job since she was aboriginal so a devastated Lowitja fought back and in 1954 O'donoghue became the first Aboriginal to serve in Royal Adelaide Hospital. She met Gordon Smart when she was forty seven then a slow relationship formed and she married him in 1979 but she didn't have any children.

She is famous for her public service towards aboriginal people. Lowitja launched the Lowitja Institute in February 2015. Some

of most known achievements include winning Australian of the year in 1984, the Advance Australia award in 1982 and National Living Treasure in 1998 and so many more.

Lowitja is appreciated for her lifelong advocacy for Aboriginal rights and reconciliation which makes her one of the most respected and influential Aboriginal people in history. Although her husband passed , Lowitja still continues her journey and will and will always fight for her people.