



Margaret Kemarre Turner
Diocese of Darwin

Margaret Kemarre Turner is a respected Eastern Arrernte elder, cultural adviser, teacher, artist and author. In 1997 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the Aboriginal community of Central Australia, particularly through preserving language and culture and interpreting.

She was born in Harts Range region, north-east of Alice Springs. She started her formal education in Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), then continued in Darwin and Alice Springs, where she qualified as a language interpreter. She has taught language and culture and a cross-cultural course at the Institute for Aboriginal Development in Alice Springs. She is one of the founders of Irrkelantye Learning Centre, focusing on intergenerational learning for Arrernte people. Mrs Turner has also been painting through Irrkerlantye Arts for a numbers of years. She is a director of the Apmeraltye Ingkerreka project and has assisted a Central Australian community in the development of a protocol to protect their intellectual property in native plants. All her service is to keep Arrernte country, language and culture strong.

Margaret Turner has written three books. *Bushfoods* and *Everything Comes from the Land* were published in 2005. Her latest book, *Iwenhe Tyrtye – what does it mean to be an Aboriginal person?* was published in 2010. She is an active member and one of the leaders of Aboriginal Catholics in Central Australia. She has been serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and is also one of the representatives of the Darwin Diocese Aboriginal Council.

Margaret Turner is a proud mother, grandmother and great-great grandmother.