Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1194

Stanton, Mimbingal Violet (Vai) McGinness

(1929 - 1995)

Born	19290101, Darwin? Northern Teritory Australia
Died	19950501
Occupation	Welfare worker

Summary

Mimbingal Violet (Vai) McGinness Stanton, of Kungarakany and Gurindji descent, attended primary schools in Darwin and Katherine. Following the bombing of Darwin in 1942, she was evacuated to South Australia, where she completed her primary education. At the end of the war, she returned to the Northern Territory, became a wardsmaid at the Katherine hospital and completed a correspondence certificate course in English.

In 1964 Stanton was appointed as an instructor in home management at the Bagot reserve by the Aboriginal welfare branch of the Northern Territory administration. In 1969 she was awarded a scholarship to the South Pacific Commission community education training centre in Fiji, and then became a welfare officer in the Northern Territory administration’s social development branch. She became involved with a women’s group, Djuani, and the Aboriginal Development Foundation, and through these two organisations helped to improve housing, women’s arts and crafts and occupational training for young people.

In 1973 she became a founding member of the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australia Council. She helped establish the Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related Difficulties (FORWAARD) in 1976 and later became its coordinator. She was also one of the central figures in the 1983 Maranunggu land claim.

Published resources

Edited Book
The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture, Horton, David, 1994

Book
No Man's Land: Women of the Northern Territory, James, Barbara, 1989

Australian Women of High Achievement, Sykes, Roberta, 1993

Murawina : Australian women of high achievement, Roberta Sykes ; photography by Sandy Edwards, 1993

Journal Article
Interview with Vai Stanton, Kamener, Martin, 1992

Sound recording
Site visits and Tjalak, or mortuary, ceremony from the Adelaide River area, NT, Stanton, Violet Francis Ilkniyari Mimbingal, 1980

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders

Author Details
Leonarda Kovacic and Barbara Lemon

Created 25 May 2005
Last modified 12 February 2019