Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1251

Shearer, Heather

Occupation Artist, Child welfare worker

Summary

Separated from her family at birth, Heather Shearer was adopted into a non-Aboriginal family. She grew up in Adelaide, completely cut off from her culture and from Aboriginal people. Since 1978, Shearer has been actively involved with Aboriginal child welfare groups and family link-up services.

Details

Shearer became Secretary of the South Australian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (ACCA) in 1978, and was active in the establishment of Aboriginal foster care in that state. She was a Coordinator of the Alice Springs Aboriginal Child Care Agency, and Secretary of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC). She attended indigenous peoples' conferences in Geneva and Norway. In her role as the Aboriginal link-up worker for the South Australian Department for Human Services, Shearer met her family after many years.

An accomplished artist, Heather Shearer designed posters for National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day and the release of the Bringing Them Home report. She is currently the Manager of the Central Australian Stolen Generations and Families Aboriginal Corporation in Alice Springs.

Published resources

Book
The Black Grapevine: Aboriginal Activism and the Stolen Generations, Briskman, Linda, 2003

Catalogue
Four Circles/Soaring Visions, Shearer, Heather Kemarre et al, 1998

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details
Leonarda Kovacic and Barbara Lemon

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