

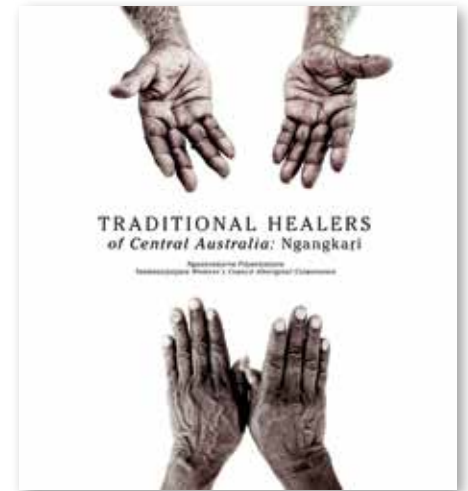
TRADITIONAL HEALERS OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA: NGANGKARI

Amazing stories of the ancient art of traditional Aboriginal healing

Written by Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara
Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation (NPY)

Traditional Healers of Central Australia contains unique stories and imagery and primary source material: the ngangkari speak directly to the reader. Ngangkari are senior Aboriginal people authorised to speak publicly about Anangu (Western Desert language speaking Aboriginal people) culture and practices. It is accurate, authorised information about their work, in their own words.

The practice of traditional healing is still very much a part of contemporary Aboriginal society. The ngangkari currently employed at NPY Women's Council deliver treatments to people across a tri-state region of about 350,000 sq km, in more than 25 communities in SA, WA and NT. Acknowledged, respected and accepted, these ngangkari work collaboratively with hospitals and health professionals even beyond this region, working hand in hand with Western medical practitioners.



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"You've got to remember that this is the tradition, this is the knowledge and Law. It's something that has been held onto which came from the days before there were hospitals and other forms of doctors. We were responsible for looking after all the people. We have held onto that knowledge ..." - Rupert Langkatjukur Peter. Ngangkari (1941-2012)
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Awards for the Ngangkari Project – In 2011 the 6th World Congress for Psychotherapy awarded the NPY Women's Council Project with the World Council for Psychotherapy's Sigmund Freud Award - a major international award for contributions to the field of psychotherapy. In 2009 they were awarded the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Mark Sheldon Prize for '...outstanding contributions to Indigenous mental health in either Australia or New Zealand.'

Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council formed in 1980 and separately incorporated in 1994. The idea for a women's organisation arose from the South Australian Pitjantjatjara Land Rights struggle in the late 1970s. During consultations over land rights the women felt that their needs were not being addressed so they established their own organisation. What began as an advocacy organisation is now also a major provider of human services in the region.

Traditional Healers of Central Australia will be available from March 2013 in all good bookshops and online from Magabala Books (www.magabala.com) for \$49.95.

Launched in 1987, Magabala Books is a not-for-profit publishing house based in Broome, that aims to promote, preserve and publish Indigenous Australian culture.

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