

# AUNTY ELEANOR

We celebrate the leadership of strong black women and their commitment to the rights and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children

Aunty Eleanor opened her heart to the most neglected, regularly visiting Aboriginal men and women incarcerated in Melbourne's prisons. She would bring them supplies like coffee and biscuits, paid for out of her own pocket, as well as photos of their families which many treasured and kept forever



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are warned that this display contains imagery of deceased persons.

## Eleanor Harding

*Aunty Eleanor was an Elder born on Erub Island, in the Torres Strait. Her mother, Emma Pitt, was Meriam Mer, from the Torres Strait and her father, Fred Nain, was Kuku-Yimidir, from Far North Queensland.*

**Aunty Eleanor worked tirelessly fighting for civil rights for Aboriginal Australians. She advocated for women's rights and adequate educational opportunities and served with numerous organisations to attain equality for Indigenous people. Aunty Eleanor was especially proud of the work that she did for the 1967 Referendum.**

'The Aunty Eleanor Harding Memorial Award' has been granted annually since 1999 by Ilbijerri ATSI Theatre to an emerging talent

When Aboriginal people came to Fitzroy in search of missing relatives, Aunty Eleanor would assist them in finding their loved ones

By the time she was thirteen, Aunty Eleanor was working as a kitchen helper at Lake Eacham Hotel to earn her own living

*We acknowledge our founding Aunties' tireless work against systemic racism, and passion for social justice which directly led to the establishment of EMH.* ELIZABETH MORGAN HOUSE ABORIGINAL WOMENS' SERVICES INC.