

AUNTY MERLE

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



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

Merle Jackomos OAM

Elder of the Yorta Yorta nation from the area surrounding the junction of the Goulburn and Murray Rivers, northeast Victoria and southern NSW.

Aunty Merle's kindness, combined with her desire to see real improvements in the lives of others, led her to be a proactive campaigner for change throughout most of her life.

Aunty Merle was a woman who set out to make a difference and that is exactly what she achieved.

Aunty Merle was a founding member of the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, which continues to grow and provide legal representation and advocacy for the Aboriginal community

Aunty Merle worked tirelessly amongst the wider community to promote what the success of the vote would mean for Indigenous Australians. The 1967 referendum was won, and subsequently Aboriginal people were counted in the national census

This was an important victory in the ideological battle for equality and became a symbolic turning point

Aunty Merle was a key member of the Aborigines Advancement League (AAL), first as part of the management committee and then as the President from 1986