



Joan Hendriks
Archdiocese of Brisbane

Joan Hendriks is a descendant of the Ngugi people of Moreton Bay Queensland and maintains a deep sense of identity with family and place of belonging. Her family is central in her life and her spiritual connections deeply embedded in the land and waters of Moreton Bay; place of belonging for Ngugi people.

Joan is an adult educator and has worked since the 1980's in the field of Aboriginal Education. She has presented workshops in primary and secondary schools, local Church and Community organizations, Government departments and internationally at the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Forum.

Joan is an active member of her local church community and is currently involved in the delivery of Religious Education at the community school. She is committed to bringing about change towards justice for all peoples in Australia. Joan believes that the first steps towards reconciling differences begins with the understanding of cultural differences and how this has impacted on living relationships between peoples. She believes sharing our cultures, spiritualities and ways of living with the land can be the stepping stones to a united Australia where justice and equity prevails.

Intertwined in her deep cultural identity and spirituality has been an enthusiasm to engage in interfaith dialogue. In 2006 Joan was one of nine participants from different religions invited by the Arbor Foundation to share in a *Spirit of Religion* Inter-religious dialogue discussion.

In 2007 'Aunty Joan' was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Australian Catholic University National and was also honoured with the 2008 Indigenous Research Award for her research study *A Dialogue between Christian Theology and Indigenous Spirituality*, with specific reference to Aboriginal Traditional Ancestry.

Joan has been a member of the Council of Australian Catholic Women for a number of years and currently holds the position of Deputy Chair.