



**Marjorie Angela
Hunter (nee Daisy)**
Diocese of Broome

Marjorie Angela Hunter, born 1943 on Margaret River Station (Kimberley), is a member of the 'Kimberley Stolen Generation'. She was removed from her Mother at the age of 18 months and was taken to the Derby Native Hospital. At 2 years of age she was sent from Derby to Broome, to the Holy Child Orphanage. She was placed under the wonderful care, love and guidance of the St John of God Sisters; they were the only 'Mothers' she knew while living at the Orphanage for 13 years. She left the Orphanage to attend a Technical College at the Derby District High School in February 1958, and was among the boarders at St Joseph's Hostel. In October of 1958, Parish Priest Fr Joseph Kearney nominated her for a position as a telephonist which was advertised at the Derby Post Office. She was successful and commenced work at a very young age, just turning 15, and still very shy with the outside world. She worked at the Post Office for 4 years but something else was missing - her own family.

In February 1962 Marjorie left Derby and for the next two years worked in and travelled to a number of towns before returning to Darwin in 1964. It is here that she found her partner, John Hunter, with whom she had six children. She was employed as a cleaner, and sometimes cooked meals, for the priests at the Presbytery of St Paul's Darwin. The family, including John's mother Florence Hunter (nee McDonald), was evacuated out of Darwin on 29 December 1974 after Cyclone Tracey damaged their house in Rapid Creek. They stayed in Adelaide and Perth at migrant hostels and later in Wyndham.

In 1976 John and Marjorie were married in Queen of Apostles Church Wyndham by the late Fr Alphonse Bleischwitz. Marjorie was fortunate that an aunt had given her information about her birth, her mother and siblings, and she was able to apply for a Birth Extract because there was no registration of her birth between 1940-1945 in the whole of the Kimberley or in the Goldfields. She applied for Native Welfare files and found the information she needed.

In February of 1976, she was offered a position at a transient hostel (Bulungurr) as a supervisor, and was employed here for 9 years fostering many Aboriginal girls and boys. She couldn't leave them at the hostel so she took care of them in her own home along with her own six children. Adults also came to stay at the hostel. During this time, Marjorie cared for a baby girl aged 6 months old. The child's mother died and so Marjorie later adopted the little girl.

Over the years Marjorie has been very actively involved with voluntary community work, being supportive of the town and making herself available to be a part of anything of importance, especially towards St Joseph's Primary School, Wyndham District High School and the Queen of Apostles Parish. She has been involved in visiting the sick in hospital and at home, bush trips, fishing, hunting, bringing people to her home for social visits, sharing stories and learning from each other about culture. Although her childhood was tough in the sense of not having the opportunity to be raised by her biological mother and father or getting to know her grandparents and extended family members, she has great love for the St John of God Sisters and everything they have done for her. Her dedication towards others has a feeling of respect and she is very honoured to be able to share her time with people in need, especially the old, young and homeless.