# Dr Jacinta Walsh

## About me

I am a Jaru (my skin name is *Numbin*), Kitja Yawuru woman and artist from the Kimberley region of Western Australia, with English and Irish heritage. I am a proud mother to three young men. Currently an Indigenous Research Fellow with the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Histories and Futures (CIEHF) and a Lecturer at Monash University, I also serve on the Victorian Stolen Generations Reparations Package Advisory Committee and the Australian Dictionary of Biography's First Nations Working Party. My work has been recognised with numerous prestigious awards, including the 2025 Kathleen Fitzpatrick Fellowship and the 2024 Monash Indigenous Higher Degree Research Excellence Award.

I was adopted and raised in a loving non-Indigenous, multicultural family in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne. In 1998, I approached Link-Up and began a lifetime journey of reconnection with my birth mother who is of Irish and English descent, and my birth father, a Jaru Kitja Yawuru man from the Kimberley region of Western Australia. My PhD, completed in 2024, is a living oral history that tells the life story of my great-grandmother, Mabel Ita Frederick, a Stolen Generations survivor born in 1907 at *Lugangarna* (Palm Springs), birthing place near Halls Creek in Western Australia. With many others, Mabel was stolen by police in 1911 at the age of four or five and sent to the Beagle Bay Mission. She never saw her mother again. My thesis echoes the voices of many First Nations families who have and continue to look deeply into living memory, Country, the archives, and the scholarship of others, to remember our ancestral lineage and love for ourselves.

My research explores how life story research and access to archival records can serve as powerful tool for healing, truth-telling, and reconciliation. I challenge academic norms by offering a spirit and heart-centered approach to historical research, emphasising critical family history research in its capacity to enrich our individual and collective consciousness, promote self-awareness, and re-awaken historical understandings. This is especially important in a world that often seems filled with violence and indifference.

I advocate for the human rights of Indigenous youth in the juvenile justice and out-of-home-care systems and speak and write about First Nations families requiring equitable access to the textual records that hold our memories.